150n

Tory conference closes with PM's rallying call and a claim that the tide is turning



Major widens 'the great divide'

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

John Major yesterday identified the Tories' fifth-term mission as the modernisation of Britain into a low-tax, deregulated, "enterprise centre of Europe" capable of tackling the eco-nomic and social challenges of the 21st century while Labour was still responding to those of

the 1980s. An effectively delivered strategically coherent and warmly received speech, delibcrately widening what the Prime Minister called the "great divide" between the Tories, and and devolution, appeared last night to have persuaded many party activists that they now have at least a fighting chance of bucking the polls and winning the next election.

"Millions", he assured his party, had still to make up their minds over whether to back the Tories or the "lightweight al-ternative" offered by Labour. Mr Major projected Con-servatism as the force to tackle the competitive threat from

the tiger economies of Asia, in a closing leadership speech designed to stamp the Blackpool conference as the turning point for a "refreshed and uplifted" Tory party after three years of languishing behind a re-vitalised Opposition in the polls.

Unusually for a prime-min-isterial conference speech, Mr Major's rallying call to a party that had been rocked at the outset by the devastating defection to Labour of the MP Alan Howarth included a busy series of substantive policy announcements. They included a 5.000 increase in the number of police officers, a doubling of the

30,000 state-funded assisted

Inside

places at public schools and the enlistment of MUS and a new national crime squad to support the fight against drugs and organised crime.

Mr Major committed himself again to moves to make all schools grant-maintained and, for the first time, to a new freedom for religious and specialist schools, which will allow, for example, a growth in Islamic

schools. In a deftly populist from his own experience, he measure for the 50th anniver- spoke of the joy and the heartsary of the end of the Second World War, Mr Major announced that the annuity paid to holders of the Victoria and George Crosses would rise from £100 to £1,300

> He went out of his way to lavish praise on his Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, who is currently locked in a battle with the Treasury over her budget for next year. And he excoriated the privately-educated Labour leader, Tony Blair, for kicking away a ladder" from

"Riches historic, and perhaps im-plicitly pre-Thatcherite, attach-ment to a "wise and kindly way of life" with a hard-edged emphasis on the sharp dividing lines between his own party and Labour on the critical domestic issues of the economy, law and order, education and constitutional change. He insisted, too, that "one

thing in our Tory tradition" that had inspired him was the party's "historic recognition that not everyone is thrusting and confident and fit. Many are not, and they deserve protection. With a Conservative goverriment they will always get it."

break that had characterised the garden ornament business run his father 40 years ago, which failed owing to his ill health. "I know what it's like

when the money for the week runs out by Thursday," he said. "I know the knockers and sneerers who may never have taken a risk in their comfortable lives aren't fit to wipe the boots of the risk-takers of Britain."

But, reminding the confer-ence that it was also "a strong Tory tradition that you and I families before we turn to othets to pay our bills", he left an appreciative andience in no doubt that the Tories' welfare system for the 21st century would not tolerate those on welfare "who don't work" while rewarding "prudence, thrift and family responsibility

He foreshadowed potentially one of the most far-reaching proposals in the next general election programme by highlighting the role that "the more flexible use of pensions" could play in helping the elderly pay for their own future care, to meet the otherwise uncontainable pressure on the state which the care needs of the elderly would impose by the end of the

While promising that if others in Europe "go federalist,

After two we	eeks of conference rhetoric. w	where's the clear blue water?
	Conservative	Labour
Tex	Cuts as soon as possible, including Inheritance and Capital Gains taxes	Windfall tax on utilities pays for jobs programme. Possible cut in fuel VAT
Crime	Life for second-time rapists and fixed terms for third-time burglars	"Tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime"
Constitution	No change, except a hint of giving the Scots more say	Elected assemblies for Scotland, Wales and London; Freedom of Information Act; referendum on electoral reform
Schools	60,000 assisted places at private schools; more grant-maintained schools	Assisted Places Scheme abolished to limit primary classes to 30; GM schools back in LEA sphere
Workers' rights	No change - will never sign Social Chapter	Minimum wage; right to union representation
Railway's	Sell Raitrack, franchise services	"A publicly owned, publicly accountable railway system"
Piblic spending	Aim for budget balance	Borrow to invest; inflation target "at least as tough as Tories"
Health service	Push for more GPs to be fundholders	GPs band together to "commission" services
Local councils	Council tax capping to stay, despite grassroots revolt	Compulsory competitive tendering to go
National Lottery	No change	Non-profit-making

Mr Major's language on Europe was several light years away from the stridently nationalistic tone that was struck by his Defence Secretary, Michael

Portillo, on Tuesday.

Asserting that he was "for prope, not against it", Mr Major appealed for underners wanted European unity as a guarantee against the wars and dictatorship that they had suffered over the last 50 years. But the Prime Minister warned that the British gov-

Join If possible

ernment had not entered Europe "for a new tier of government", or "for Socialism through the back door". standing of why Britain's part-

lition of capital gains and inheritance tax, as well the reduction of income tax, the Prime Minister declared that while the Government had had to but taxes up "to protect the vulnerable" in the recession, high spending and taxation

NDEPENDEN')N SATURDAY

MAGAZINE

Backstage with Blur

Asthma — the unknown periis of puffers

Knock 'em dead suits for autumn



ON MONDAY

Keith Richards spills the beans on drugs, music and being a grandfather

I am a scientist, not a politician - Nobel winner

The British physicist Joseph Rotblat, the winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, yesterday sharply rebuked Jacques Chirac and China's political leaders for hanging on to nu-

Ironically, John Major, who was widely tipped as a possible winner, was criticised as a danger to world peace by the man who won the prize.

Professor Rotblat has spent his life campaigning against nuclear weapons - and the

award, worth £1m, comes 50 to nuclear weapons, saying that years after atomic bombs were while they brought prestige dropped on Hiroshima and Na-

Professor Rotblat has worked to build an influential organi-sation of scientists with specialist nuclear knowledge who could put pressure on offeading gov-

Professor Rotblat yesterday called French nuclear testing in the Pacific "an outrage", adding sage not only to the French but to the Chinese as well".

Professor Rotblat also criticised John Major's adherence

they did not bring security, and he praised Mikhail Gorbachev as the man who had had the courage to end the Cold War. Professor Rotblat also said a nuclear weapon-free world was

The award goes jointly to Professor Rotblat and to the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs - the organisation founded 40 years ago following the publication in 1955 of the manifesto by Bertrand Russell and Albert



the perils of thermonuclear warfare. Professor Rotblat, now its president, is the only one of the 11 original signatories still alive. The organisation is influential, but tiny, based in cramped offices opposite the British Museum in London.

Roux's exotic foods prove to be a recipe for disaster

DAVID HELLIER

Some of the country's top chefs eager to lay their hands on wild mushrooms or baby radicchio, will have to search a little harder this weekend. The company run by the celebrity chef, Albert Roux, which usually supplies them with exotic ingredients,

has gone out of busing Financial difficulties have forced Mr Roux, restaurateur to the rich and famous, to shut down his firm, Roux Lamartine, where debts are believed to be in the region of £1m.

Callers to his offices at New Covent Garden, south London, have been greeted with an

answerphone message saying: "Dear chefs. We are sorry to tell you that after a long struggle we have had to close down. Thank

you for your support." Industry experts say that up until five years ago Roux Lamartine had a pole position in supplying produce to the country's top restaurants. "You would know as soon as you ate at a restaurant that Roux Lamartine had supplied it," said one food expert.

But in recent years the market for such goods has been served by many more suppliers and the Roux's distinctiveness

problems led to Mr Roux, who is a director of a number of other companies including the one that operates Le Gavroche, the £100-a-head Mayfair restaurant, putting in £270,000 since April along with another director to help the company meet its liabilities. But it has not been enough.

Accountants have been instructed to call a creditors' meeting later this mouth. Two years ago Albert Roux and his brother Michel put three of their celebrated London restaurants up for sale: Le Poulbot and Rouxl Britannia in

the City, and Gavvers near

IN BRIEF

Norwich Union bonanza Up to 2.5 million Norwich Union policyholders are set to gain from a £1.7bn cash bonanza if they agree to allow the company to float on the stock-market. The windfall could mean average bonuses of be-tween £600 and £700. Page 22

West lodger vanished

Rosemary and Frederick West seemed very happy the day af-ter their lodger Shirley Robin-son, 16 – who was pregnant by Mr West - disappeared, Winchester Crown Court heard. Her remains were found at the house 16 years later. Page 9

Today's weather England and Wales will be sunny after a foggy start. Page 2

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GARDENING 11



See why Forrest Gump won 6 Oscars in this run away success.

Forrest Gump. Now available to buy on video.





Judges prepare for sentencing battle in Lords

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, was backed by the entire senior judiciary in opposing Michael Howard's plans to erode their discretion to decide criminal sentences.

And it became clear that the Home Secretary's plans would face strong opposition and likely defeat from an all-party coalition led by lawyers in the Lords. At least five Law Lords were

among many judges attending a receptiongiven by the Prison Reform Trust on the terrace of the House of Lords on Wednesday night, giving an indication of how liberal the judiciary has now become. It was hosted by the former Lord Chief Justice Lord Lane, and addressed by the Law Lord, Lord Mustill.

Serving judges, even those who have criticised Mr Howard in the past, took the view yesterday that this was such a serious constitutional crisis that they would keep their heads down, and leave it to Lord Taylor. But a former Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson, was among the most savage critics. This proposal to transfer responsibility for the time which a criminal spends in prison from the judges to politicians involves a constitutional change

HEATHER MILLS

Home Affairs Correspondent.

Shock waves passed through the

Prison Service yesterday as

it emerged that Michael

package could swell the prison

population by 21,500 - a 41 per-

cent hike - and cost up to £3bn

simply to build enough new jails.

an extra £520m a year to the tax-

payers' £1.3bn annual prison bill

£860m needed to found nursery

education for all three- and

the annual wages of 34,700 po-

bursting at an all-time record of

population than our European

partners - there are genuine

fears of fuelling jail unrest. Not

least because the withdrawal of

remission, or the chances of only

small periods of remission, re-

moves the incentive for pris-

With the prison population

four-year-olds, or enough to

lice officers.

that is 60 per cent of the

The scheme could also add

could be put right on appeal. [judges] may be, they are not swayed by sustained campaigns either for or against particular types of crime or particular

Lord Ackner, who recently retired as a Law Lord, but still sits in the House, said Mr Howard's "short-term political opportunism" had seriously provoked the judges: "It's prei-ty strong stuff when the Lord Chief Justice comes out within minutes against him. And he is representing the views of the judiciary as a whole. It's not a

knee-jerk reaction by him.
"He's got a sufficient sensitivity to decide whether what he's doing is likely to be fully backed or not. To put up his statement immediately, in such a political context means he

Howard's plans could swell

prison numbers by 21,500

According to analysis by the National Association of Pro-

bation Officers (NAPO), it is

the loss of remission which will

lead to the biggest increase in

inmates - delays in the release

gradually build up to an extra 15,000 on the daily population.

The compulsory sentences for burglars and drug dealers are likely to add another 6,500.

Mr Howard claims his harsh-

er policies of locking up more

people has contributed to the

recent five per cent drop in

recorded crime. He will also

contest the probation officers

statistics, claiming that stiffer

penalties will act as a deterrent.

Justice vesterday said: "What

caught, which at the moment is

small." Home Office research

supports Lord Taylor's argu-

ment. It showed that, to reduce

the 5 million recorded crimes a

year by just one per cent, it

would be necessary to lock up

an extra 12,500 prisoners. Us-

However, the Lord Chief

Howard's latest law and order of all sentenced prisoners would

52,000 - far higher per head of deters is the likelihood of being

clear yesterday that they were ready for the judicial onslaught, and to turn the debate into a highly public one if need be. ges cannot expect to operate without interference from politicians if they interfere in poone source said.

Politics is a hot kitchen. If the judges are stupid enough to put themselves in the firing line by opposing an absolutely central package it will be they who are damaged, not the Gov-

ing those figures, Mr Howard's plans will achieve a two per cent

drop or 100,000 less offences.

that any gain is short term. Stephen Shaw, of the Prison Re-form Trust, said: "No one dis-

outes that when burglars are

locked up they are not burgling.

The question is what happens

when they are released? There

are sufficient indications that

prison makes it more likely

nal policy out of line with its Eu-

the United States. But there, a

three-fold increase in the prison

population in the last 20 years

- locking up one in very 200
Americans — has only suc-

ceeded in stabilising exceedingly

Yesterday, Harry Fletcher, of NAPO, said it was "folly" to fol-

low the US example. "This will

have disastrous consequences

for the management of prisons,"

high crime rates.

The plans move the UK's pe-

that someone will re-offend."

However, penal reform roups and criminologists argue

must be sure. The imposition of

any length of imprisonment,

particularly if its a substantial

one, is a judicial function and

is to be done by a judge and not a politician. If you are de-

termining the length of a per-son's stay in prison it should be

done in open court after hear-

ing evidence and argument,

and not done by a politician, in

private, having heard neither ev-

like a court, with no right of

extending judicial discretion by

abolishing the mandatory life

sentence for murder by almost

100 votes, before it had been de-

feated by the whipped Com-

mons majority, and it was unlikely to allow discretion to

Government sources made

The Lords had supported

dence nor argument, and, un-

Murder police in plea to husband



The victims: John and Vivien Trant (above), who worked

a tour guides in and around London; their daughter

Vivien Aderdour, a midwife; and her 16-month-old

daughter Amina (above right)

A police officer outside the house where the bodies were found Photograph: Geraint Lewis





A man whose wife, 16-monthold daughter, and mother and father-in-law were found stabbed to death at their north London home was yesterday urged by police to "hand himself over so we can at least rule him out".

The hunt for Brahim Aderdour, 37, was extended yesterday to ports and airports. Despite confirming that Mr Aderdour and his wife Sophia, 32, were in the process of divorcing, police refused to say whether he was a suspect.

In a warning given during a press conference at Islington police station over yesterday's press coverage of the killings, the officer leading the investiention, Detective Superintendent Derek Dale, said: "We do not know that Mr Aderdour killed his family, so neither can

Det Supt Dale confirmed that at 2pm on Thursday the police received an emergency call for help. The call was abandoned, but traced to a terraced house in Dagmar Road, Islington, where the four bodies were found in the front room.

Although a knife had been

recovered, he said the results of the post-mortem examinations had yet to be completed. The victims were named as

John Trant, 71, his wife, Vivien, 57, their daughter, Sophia Aderdour, and her baby daugh-ter, Amina. All had been stabbed

Mrs Aderdour was a midwife at the Whittington Hospital, Archway, north London. How-ever, she had been recently working at St Thomas's hospi tal in Lambeth. It is understood that she used to live with her husband in a flat near her parents' home, and that Mrs Trant looked after Amina when her mother was at work. However, the couple recently separated and Mrs Aderdour is thought to

have moved in with her parents Mr and Mrs Trant worked as travel guides escorting tourists around London and parts of south-east England. Neighbours in the area were still describing their shock and sense of loss over the violent deaths of a well-liked family.

Mr Aderdour came to Britain from Morocco in 1989 and married shortly afterwards. Mr Dale said he was "very anxious" to speak to Mr Aderdour, an unemployed designer, adding: "He might be able to help us."

Two years jail for road-rage driver

A road-rage driver who launched tear gas attacks against two drivers - putting a baby in hospital - was jailed for two and a half years yesterday. Four-month-old Hannah

Ford was in a baby seat in her

father's car when she was hit by

the tear gas sprayed by 23-year-old Kenneth Taylor, who had chased the family car after being "cut up" at a roundabout in Newport, Gwent, Twenty minutes earlier he had attacked another driver 10 miles away. Taylor, of Butetown, Cardiff. had denied assault and admin-

istering a noxious substance.

Boost for LSD case Legal aid was granted to 56 patients suing health authorities in the West Midlands over continuing side effects caused by treatment with the hallucinogenic drug LSD in hospitals in the 1960s.

Wife and lover jailed A cheating wife and her lover were jailed at the Old Bailey after being convicted of attempting to murder her policeman husband for his £100,000 life insurance. Yvonne Jones, 37, of Elm Park, Essex, received 11 years and 33-year-old Graham Keats, of Dagenham, 13 years for a knife attack on PC Nigel Jones that left him with 10

Pilot dies in crash

A pilot, Norman Faulds, 52, and his two dogs died when his Cessna aircraft crashed into a hill in mist on the Isle of Man.

Road to smell

Workmen were pumping out a huge underground lake of sewage found under a main road in Scarborough, North Yorkshire. Only six inches of concrete was holding up the road when the cavern, caused by leaking pipes, was found.

at Exeter university, was awarded £5 damages in the county court after suing college authorities for failing to clean his room after he found mouse droppings. Unfortunately he had turned out a £75 settlement and must pay £18.60 costs.

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concise crossword



ACROSS

Sardonic (3) Metric weight (5) Recent arrival (8) Attendant (4) Middleman (12) 10 Light (6) 12 Rendered fat (6)

14 Terminology (12)18 Abominable snowman 19 In detail (8) 20 Cancel (5) 21 Mountain peak (3)

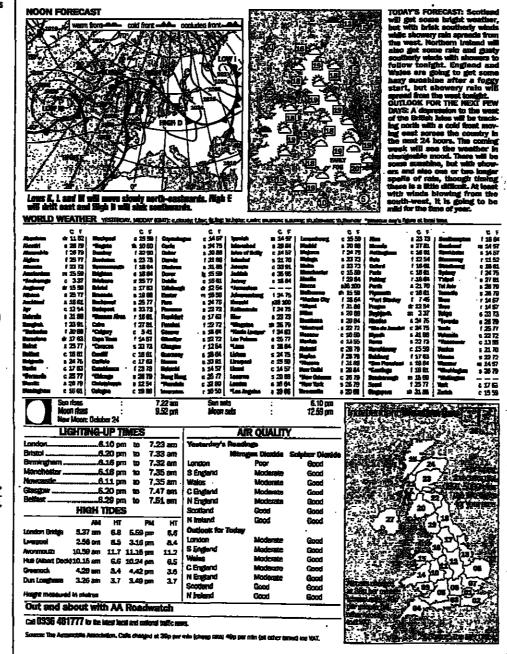
Crying (7) Sailing vessel (5) Hebridean isle (5) Relating to marriage (7) Keen (5) Come out (6)

Spanish or Portuguese 12 Works out (6) 13 Partially cover (7)

15 Musical entertainment 16 Béast of burden (5) 17 Extremely (5)

Solution to vesterday's Concise Crossworth cross: 1 Heads, 4 Calf (Headscarf); 8 Harrier, 9 Sugar, 10 Trot, 11 Seraglio, Physiotherapy, 15 Apposite, 17 Riot, 20 Stave, 21 Origami, 22 Tent, 23 Shame, wn: 1 Harmony, 2 Aria, 3 Surreptitious, 4 Cascade, 5 Legal, 6 That, 7 Groovy, Praise, 13 Inspect, 14 Animate, 16 Prate, 18 Trio, 19 Lira

weather



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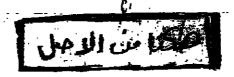
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wounds to the neck and head.

Legal lesson

Andrew Hards, 20, a law student

Beckering

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for attal

Nobel Peace Prize: Britain's 86-year-old winner says that he 'started work on the atomic bomb so that it should not be used'

The man who disowned his brainchild

TOM WILKIE and STEVE CONNOR

His hair is white and his shoulders slightly stooped with the burden of his 86 years, but his mind, which helped design the first atomic bomb and then revolted against his creation, is as sharp and acute as ever.

Professor Joseph Rotblat, winner of the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize, wears an unfashionable brown suit. He lives in an unfashionable suburb of north London, and he has devoted his adult life to an unfashionable

He conducts himself like an elderly academic, with the gentility belonging to an earlier age. But there is an inner steel and a moral integrity that few can rival. He was the world's first anti-nuclear protester, for he walked out on the wartime American Atomic Bomb project before the weapon was com-plete but when he, and the other atomic scientists knew that Hitler's Germany could never possess nuclear weapons.

Quietly spoken, with a voice which still bears traces of his native Poland, he said yesterday: "I started work on the atomic bomb precisely so that it should not be used. I was afraid that if German scientists got the bomb, Hitler would use it." The Allies had to have the bomb to deter the Nazis from using one, in his view.

But "I did not expect that it would be used, without warning, and against a civilian population. I felt terrible when it was used. Devastated. But I felt angry rather than guilty. The other emotions were worry and fear for the future of our civilisa-

"I knew already in August 1945 that a bomb a thousand times more powerful - a hydrogen bomb – was possible. I knew also that the Soviet Union would use every possible means to develop its own weapon. We

foresaw the arms race." Born in Warsaw in on 4 November 1908, he was one of Poland's brightest young physicists, who moved to Britain for a one-year research project just before Hitler invaded his motherland. He never saw his wife again. She was among the mil-lions who were killed in the

Holocaust. He first realised the potential power of nuclear fission while working for the Radiological Laboratory in Warsaw and during his subsequent research at Liverpool University in 1939. He wrote in 1985: "My first re-flex was to put the whole thing out of my mind, like a person trying to ignore the first symptoms of a fatal disease. But the fear gnaws away all the same. My fear was that someone would put the idea into practice; the thought that I would do it did not occur."

During the war Professor Rotblat joined the British scientists on the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos in New Mexico to build the nuclear bomb. He overheard a chance remark by a US general who said the bomb's real purpose was to subdue the Soviet Union, rather than Germany, and decided to quit the project before it was finished.

The intelligence chief at Los Alamos accused him of being a spy. Rotblat persuaded his superiors this was untrue, but had to agree not to talk to anyone about his real reason for leaving. The official reason given for his departure from the Manhattan Project was that he wanted to return to Europe to search for his missing wife. He was forbidden to contact his former colleagues and was barred from the US until 1964.

Hiroshima changed his scientific life and convinced him that scientists had to take responsibility for the consequences of their endeavours. He abandoned nuclear science for

medical physics. He settled in Britain, becoming a UK citizen in 1946, and is now Emeritus Professor of Medical Physics at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. He chose this scientific discipline, because "I wanted to decide for myself how my work would be used."

Rotblat was one of the distinguished scientists, along with Albert Einstein and Linus Pauling, to sign the Bertrand Rus-sell-Einstein manifesto for peace in 1955, which stated: We have to learn to think in a problem which we present to to the human race; or shall nankind renounce war?" Paul-

Rotblat became a founder-member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and helped to set up the Pugwash Conferences on Science and

Pugwash is a town in Nova Scotia, the birthplace of Cyrus Eaton, the Canadian industrialist who financed the first meeting at the height of the Rotblat continued his acad-

emic work on the medical effects of radiation. He once drank mildly radioactive liquid to prove that not all forms of radiation are necessarily lethal. He won the Albert Einstein Peace Prize Foundation with

physicist Hans Bethe in 1992. Tributes flooded in yesterday new way... Here, then, is the for Professor Rotblat's prize. Sir Martin Rees, the Astronomer you, stark and dreadful and in- Royal, said he has won a "subescapable: Shall we put an end stantial reward for his concern over the consequences on mu clear radiation over the past 50

> British Association for the Advancement of Science, arguing that it is feasible to climinate mclear weapons entirely. "He believes it is feasible to go for



the Nobel prize for the discov-

long overdue.

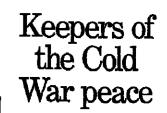
ery of the DNA double helix. great satisfaction" not just besaid that Rotblat and the Pugcause he helped to bring muclear wash group had been tireless disarmament closer but becampaigners for peace and the cause he "is a son of Polish soil, award of the Peace Prize was a graduate of Warsaw University, who today still retains his

greeted Rothlat's award "with

At a time when there was ties with Poland". Adam Rotfeld, director of the frightful Cold War confrontation, Pugwash was one of the Stockholm International Peace few channels of communication Research Institute, said the between the Russians and the Norwegian Nobel Committee

fessor Rotblat the recognition he deserves. "I have asked myself many times why he had not been offered the prize." Professor Rotblat said the

award was: "not for me but for the small group of scientists who have been working for 40 years, often against the world's wish to avoid the greatest tragedy that could befall us. For the first time in history it has become technically possible to extinguish had left it very late to give Pro- the whole human species.



Professor Rotblat is the last surviving signatory of the manifesto against the H-bomb drafted in 1955 by Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein.

Eleven scientists signed the manifesto which led to the foundation of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. Professor Rotblat served as secretary general from 1957 to 1973 and has been president since 1988.

The group is named after the venue of its first meeting, the fishing village of Pugwash in Nova Scotia, Canada, Since 1955, its scientists have made avoidance of nuclear war and war in general their objective. At the height of the Cold War, Pugwash conferences acted as a diplomatic conduit, and

played a crucial role in the disarmament process. Negotiations on a test-ban treaty in the early 1960s were helped by a joint Soviet-US proposal at a Pugwash conference for seismic monitoring as a means of verification. It has also been suggested that the Cuban missile crisis was resolved by Pugwash scientists who conveyed to Moscow the deal by

viet missiles from Cuba. They are also believed to have played a crucial role in the 1980s during President Reagan's infatuation with "Star Wars".

which the US would remove

missiles from Turkey in ex-

change for the withdrawal of So-





Previous British winners of the peace prize

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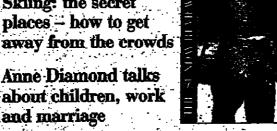
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ACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

A week at the conference

'Clear blue water' brings a wave of hope

Chief Political Correspondent

The Tory party faithful yesterday left Blackpool feeling they had been given a fighting chance to win the next general election by John Major's "come back" speech to the Conservative Party conference.

Many activists returned to their constituencies prepared to fight a general election next October - six months earlier than expected.

Putting behind them the defection of Alan Howarth to Labour, which had threatened to cast a pall over the conference, the Tory constituency rank and file left Blackpool in fighting mood. As they poured out of the Winter Gardens, several said it put "clear blue water" between the Tories and Labour Party.

"This is the fight-back. This week has not always been the most glitzy conference but it has given us the fighting spirit, not just on crime but on Europe the rhetoric was just what was wanted. There is real clear blue water between us and Labour now," said a close ally of Baroness Thatcher, Gerald Howarth, the prospective parliamentary candidate for Alder-

As a right-winger, Mr Howarth was also delighted by the Prime Minister's apparent endorsement of Michael Portillo's controversial speech, attacking the idea of a European defence force.

Jim Brown, 34, a chartered accountant from Kingston and Surbiton, said that the policy commitments by the Prime



Flying the flag: Delegates found plenty to cheer in the Prime Minister's conference address

Conservative supporters who were threatening to stay at home at the next election.

"The Tory voters did not come out in the local elections. They stayed at home. But they won't do that now at the gen-

The Prime Minister's law and order measures inspired 75year-old Harry Purcell of Wyre Forest. "We have got a rough battle on our hands and he has

given us a fighting chance.
"I liked the 5,000 extra police.
There is a feeling among the Deputy Prime Minister, said it had wrested back Tony Blair's sharper edge. People wanted to claim to represent "One Na-

them what that change could do to them. Michael Heseltine, the

younger element they want

change. We have got to convince

Photograph: Brian Harris

was a speech of a Prime Min-ister rising above any section in-terests," Mr Heseltine said.

Angela Knight, a Treasury minister, said: "It's given us a

tional change only for a party

political purpose. Devolution

was "gerrymandering". Re-gional assemblies in England

would be "barmy". Our flesh was to creep at the thought of

a tartan tax imposed by a Scot-

tish parliament and all those ex-

tra bureaucrats and politicians.

tion" values and ideals. "This

very strongly."

Mark Orr, 33, a print broker from Luton, was dressed in a Union Jack outfit, with a union jack flag around his shoulders. He said: "I came to this conference as I have always done, thinking of myself as a Thatcherite.

"I now realise I am a Majorite because he is tackling the things that I think are important - the serious issues of crime and education, not dealing with squeegee merchants but tackling the hard offenders."

Mr Major's speech also inspired the young wing of the Conservative Party. "What John Major did today was solidify a feeling of unity in the leadership election. He has given us confidence that we can win the next general election," said Martyn Gorse, an 18-year-old from north Dorset

Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade and a close friend of the Prime Minister, said that it was the best speech he had ever heard Mr Major deliver. "It has been a very good conference. We are going away to fight Labour with renewed

vigour."
David Shaw, a right-wing
Tory MP defending the highly
marginal Dover constituency. was delighted education and law and order policies had put "clear blue water" between the Tories and Tony Blair's Labour

"The Prime Minister is now carrying out a distinctive education policy which is has a very Conservative philosophy. On assisted places, he is doing things Margaret Thatcher couldn't

lotes of the week Devil of the week ...bad week

Valiant effort fails to conceal the lack of coherence

For 70 minutes yesterday, John Major struggled to expound the case for today's Conservatism that would simultaneously be coherent, appealing to middle England (middle Scotland had to be thrown from the balloon if there was to be any hope of lift-off) and satisfying

to the wavers of Union Jacks. Coherence - internal consistency – was beyond attaining. Mr Major reminded his party of his pledge to work for a classless society. He then went on to repeat his pledge to abolish inheritance tax and made a new nledge to double the assisted



Education, he insisted, was at the top of his agenda. He said nothing, however, about the real terms cuts in funding now being experienced in local education authorities. His insistence that the assisted places scheme has been "a magnificent

success" and his brandishing of because the money they get the new nursery voucher were a bizarre prelude to an assertion that "real choice will come when every state school offers the highest standards". The Prime Minister's sug-

gestion that state schools fail to put learning before "political correctness" was no less offensive to teachers for being expressed in one of Mr Portillo's favourite clichés.

It was simply disingenuous to say that GM schools get their money from the Government and the results are quite outstanding. Where their results are outstanding, it is not least

from the Government is more than the money other schools get. Labour, absolutely rightly, will end this inequity. Mr Major's difficulties were

painfully clear, too, as he talked about patriotism, the nation and the constitution. Wisely and as something of a slap on Mr Portillo's wrist - he said he did not question Labour's patriotism. He started to make the case that if the United Kingdom was to disintegrate, it would have less influence internationally, but he then abandoned any attempt to make a reasoned case. Labour wanted constitu-

A vague hint was dropped about the Scots gaining more say over their lives, though noting was said about the release of local government from cap-

ping which the conference had demanded in a notable rebellion against its managers.

throughout the United Kingdom at the atrophying of our democracy in consequence of the wholesale centralisation of

power in Whitehall. There are many practical difficulties to be resolved by Labour in developing the details of its programme for constitutional reform. But at the end of this week it is more encouraging still that Labour is committed to the rehabilitation of our politics. The dismal proceedings at Blackpool show

The Government fails to ac- Alan Howarth defected from the knowledge the real anxiety Tories to Labour at the weekend.



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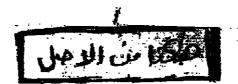
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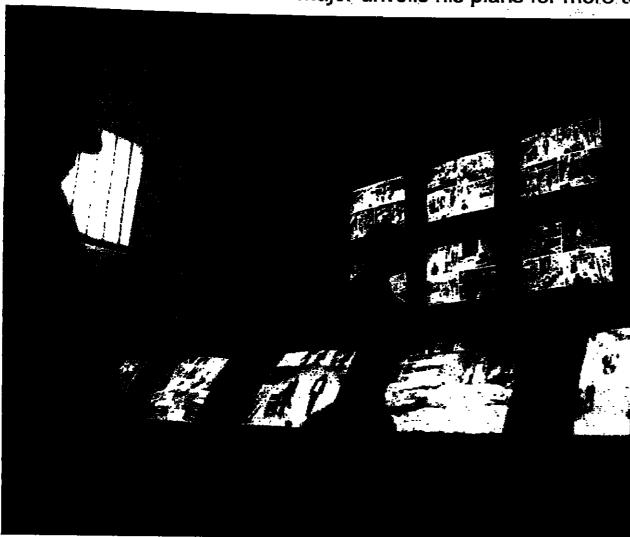
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THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON

NEW CEROOL

Laying down the law: John Major unveils his plans for more town centre surveillance schemes and the first national crime unit



You've been framed: The CCTV control centre of Glasgow police's A Division

Photograph: Jeremy Sutton Hibbert

Police determined to lead FBI-style force

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

The police are expected to in-

sist on taking charge of the country's first national crime unit, which will include officers from MI5, under plans outlined by the Prime Minister yesterday.

Mr Major announced that oranised crime was a "threat to the state" and that the Government would introduce a Bill this autumn to change the law to allow MI5 to become involved in traditional crime fighting for the first time.

As predicted exclusively earher this mouth in the Independent, he also announced that a national FBI-style crime force is to be established to tackle drug traffickers and organised

Although the Government and chief constables have yet to discuss the details of how the force would operate, it is understood that it will involve the expansion of the Home Office-run National Criminal Intelligence Service, which currently can only collect and process information. They will be given an operational wing

drawn from the country's existing six regional crime squads, which deal with serious of-fences. This will enable the force to target specific criminals, carry out undercover operacrime-fighter tions and make arrests.

MI5, the security service, is expected to work alongside NCIS officers in carrying out surveillance and analysing com-plex data. At first only about 20 of the service's 2,000 staff are expected to take part.

The Government's promised crime Bill is expected to amend the 1989 Security Services Act, which restricts MI5 to operating only when national security or the economic well being of the country is threatened from abroad. The Bill will allow the security service to work against organised crime, which

includes drug dealers. During the forthcoming negotiations, chief constables will irgue that NCIS must cut its links with the Home Office and operate as an independent outfit with a police chief in charge. A select unit from the country's 1,500 regional crime squad officers and additional specialist staff from the MetMI5 to take up role as

Britain to get FBI-style crime force

How the *Independent* broke the story on 22 September and 5 October

ropolitan Police would be at-tached to NCIS. The current national co-ordinator of the regional crime squads would play a leading role.

Customs and Excise, M16 and GCHQ would continue to provide information and intel-

ligence on organised crime.

Jim Sharples, the president of the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Chief Constawelcomed the inclusion of MI5 in the fight against organised

crime, but added: "We have always said that any agencies involved must have a proper legal framework and must be ac-

countable and transparent. "We are very pleased, therefore, that there is a commitment for legislation to put the security services on a proper legal

He said the police did not object to MI5 agents continuing to give evidence during trials behind screens to protect their identity. Civil rights campaign ers argued that this could lead

to miscarriages of justice. M15's director general, Stella Rimington, has been lobbying for her organisation to be allowed to join the fight against organised crime ever since the collapse of the Eastern Bloc and the terrorist ceasefires in North-

A security source said yesterday: "It's adding support to law enforcement agencies. There is no question of prima-cy." Nevertheless, police chiefs are treating the MI5's new involvement very cautiously and control of traditional crime-

Promises on cameras and patrols likely to be broken

more police officers and CCTV

Crime Correspondent

The Prime Minister's pledge to provide an extra 5,000 police officers to walk the beat and 10,000 more surveillance cameras are extremely unlikely to be fulfilled, government figures suggest

His two law and order initiatives received enthusiastic responses from the Tory delegates and undisguised joy from the police. But a detailed breakdown of the funding suggests that neither scheme will deliver the hoped-for impact.

Responding to the public's growing desire for more police on patrol, Mr Major said he was town centres around the coungoing to increase the current to- try follows the success of camtal of nearly 130,000 officers in England and Wales by 5,000 over the next three years. To pay for the rise he has promised to add £100m to the annual police crime in the city centre area cov-

ridget of £6.4bn. ered by the network of 16 cam-eras. Newcastle police claim that budget of £6.4bn.

for 5,000 police constables, in the three years since the cam earning about £20,000 each a eras were fitted there had been vear, but it does not take into 6,000 fewer victims than might account the cost of training have been predicted. But critics believe the use of and equipment or inflation. It

is also extremely unlikely that chief constables will spend all the money on patrol officers. Many forces have had to make cuts in services and equipment and are under-resourced in areas such as civilian staff. Jack Straw, Labour's shadow Home Secretary said "We will believe his promise to provide

cameras when we see it." The announcement that an extra 10,000 closed-circuit televisions are to be installed in eras in reducing crime. Research in Newcastle upon Tyne showed there were significant falls in various kinds of

CCTV to cut crime is still unproved and may just displace offences. There is also concern about civil liberties, highlighted by the disclosure last week that a businessman intends to use clins of violent assaults taken on CCTV on a video which will be sold as entertainment. It is unclear how new cameras

will be paid for. The Home Office expects to get £20m over three years to pay for the initiative. In a similar scheme last year the Home Secretary provided £5m to help partnerships install CCTV nationwide. This money brought in £13.8m of funding from private firms and about 1,000 cameras. With just four times the money, the Government will need to get 10 times the equipment.

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New spending adds to tax-cut dilemma

PAUL WALLACE Economics Editor

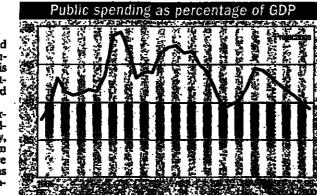
John Major may have enjoyed winning the acclaim of the conference delegates with his pledge of a return to the tax-cutting trail. Now comes the hard bit: making the sums add up.
It will not be easy. The clear-

est direct proposal to cut spend-ing was made by Peter Lilley, with his crackdown on asylum seekers, estimated to save £200m. But that reduction was more than outweighed by commitments for extra spending. Andrew Smith, shadow Chief

Secretary, was quick to pounce on the potential cost, saying that the total cost of 5,000 more po-licemen, doubling the assisted places scheme, the 10,000 extra closed-circuit cameras togethscheme for four year olds would add up to £500m.

he was looking forward to delivering, came on a day in which higher inflation pushed the cost of the social security budget next year up by £650m more than the time of the last Budget. Half a billion here, half a billion there and you are talking big money.
If the Treasury's plans for

realistic, then the Chancellor might be able to absorb such extra calls for funds from the re-



But to take one key claiman the health department's budget is shown as falling in real terms in 1996-97 by £0.5 in, despite the Tories' pledge to keep increasing health spending in real money. Between 1989-90 and er with the nursery voucher :1994-95, the department's budget rose on average by £1.3bn a year - surely a more likely out-As if that was not enough, Mr come next year after the run-in Clarke's teases about a Budget over the summer with the nurses and midwives.

Or take education, an area singled out by Mr Major as a priority. The I per cent real increase in education spending to Treasury had reckoned at the local authority-controlled schools this year fell short of the pay award of 2.7 per cent givpay award of 2.7 per cent given to teachers.

spending next year were more in the City about the Government's ability to make real spending cuts next year. The historical precedents are telling: in serve he keeps in hand for the year preceding each of the unbudgeted expenditure. At last three elections, real gov-£6bn, he has a lot to play with. ernment spending has jumped mains out.

erage rate of growth.

None of which will prevent the Chancellor from cutting

the all-important income tax next year. By fudging the spend-ing round, allowing the PSBR to rise by more than had been planned and switching the burden of taxation to the corporate sector, he will find the resources to cut income tax. Whether he can afford to

abolish capital gains tax and inheritance tax - a prospect held out by Mr Major - is more questionable. Inheritance tax will raise £1.5bn this year and CGT ment to reduce public spending

Certainly, scepticism rules as a percentage of national output below 40 per cent, that has only been achieved since the Conservatives took office in 1979 in just two years - and then by running the economy hugely above capacity. The jury re-

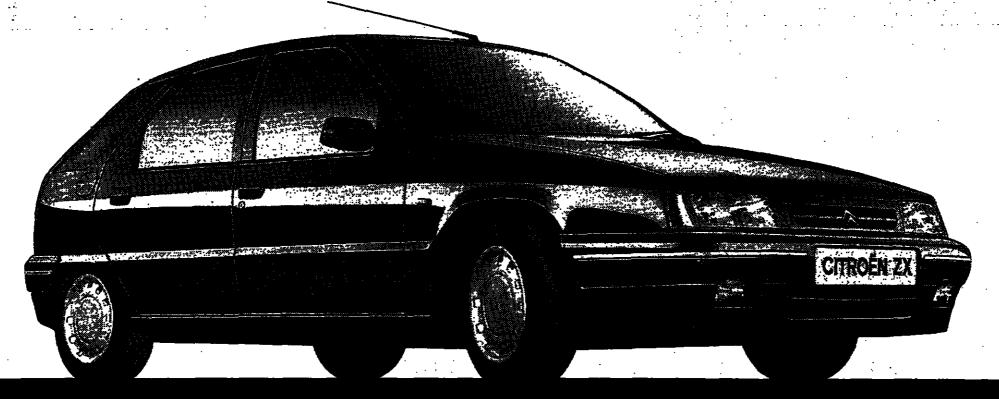
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Increase in assisted places designed to challenge Labour

GOUL HIIGUL

John Major's aim in doubling the Assisted Places Scheme is political: he wants to emphasise the difference between his policy and that of the Labour Par-

ty, which has said it will abolish

It is not clear, however, that there is an ever-expanding mar-ket for assisted places. At present, there are 34,100 places in 300 schools for bright children from low-income families but only 30,330 of them are taken up. The gaps are among older

After revelations about thousands of empty places in the late Eighties, schools redoubled their efforts to attract more pupils, the recession began and the places at entry age are now full. But it has been hard work.

Questions have been raised, too, about the families who benefit. A decade ago, research suggested the scheme catered mainly for the impoverished gentry and divorcees' children rather than the working class. But a Mori survey before the last general election found that 38 per cent of those on the scheme were skilled or unskilled manual workers' chil-

Last year, the average income of assisted places families was Joan Clanchy, of North London Collegiate school, remain con-

dren. Many of the latter, she argued in the *Independent* earlier this year, would, in any case, find life in an independent school uncomfortably unfamil-

Money is paid out on a sliding scale according to parental income. Those with a joint income of £9,500 get the full cost of a place and those with a joint income of more than £25,000

are unlikely to get anything.
Public school heads last week
denied figures in a *Financial* Times survey showing that some families with incomes as high as £45,000 were getting help: they said such a family would need to have a lot of children on assisted places.

One of the most controversial features of the £104m a year scheme is that the amount paid for each place is determined by the fees schools choose to

A recent parliamentary answer showed that the amount paid to the 50 schools that earn most assisted places money ranged from £3,000 a year to £7,140 (Malvern College, a boarding school). Dulwich College in south London, which tops the list for assisted places earnings, receives an annual total of £1.3m.

It costs more to educate a child on an assisted place than in a state school. Research by Peter Downes, of the Secondary Heads Association, shows that the average cost of a state vinced that the scheme fails to school place for an 11 to 15- closely on income and more on

if allowance is made for capital costs for building that inde-pendent schools have to find themselves. By contrast, the average cost of an independent school place is £3,750. For sixth-

عكنا من الاجل

Independent schools are in-terested in the scheme for two reasons. Some would be in financial difficulties without it: the rate of closure of private schools more than halved after its introduction. And all believe it gives them a moral respect-ability which they might lose if the only criterion for entry was

The official response from the Independent Schools In-formation Service yesterday was enthusiastic. Privately, heads are dubious about whether they want thousands more assisted places.

Since 1980 the cost of the scheme has risen by 3,000 per cent, though the number of pupils involved has gone up by only 600 per cent. So, for the last four years, the amount schools receive has been capped to a sum well below the rise in fees. They are having to charge full fee-payers more to subsidise those on assisted places. Some schools would rather receive the full cost of their existing assisted places than take in more assisted place pupils.

Others are interested in a scheme that would attract a wider range of pupils, based less



For valour: Bill Reid showing off his awards yesterday. 'Talking about money and medals

welcomed by Britain's heroes JOJO MOYES

Belated gesture

Until 1959, the only financial reward for the holders of Britain's highest awards for bravery was £50, available to those who became destitute. Unsurprisingly. few chose to accept it.

A Cabinet minister, horrified at the lack of financial support, introduced an annuity of £100, a sum that remained unchanged until yesterday when John Ma-jor announced that holders of the Victoria and George Cross would receive a yearly payment of £1,300 - 13 times the previous sum.

Yet according to one medalholder, despite often suffering severe financial hardship, the veterans themselves would nev-er have lobbied for an increase.

"Money has never really been talked about," said Bill Reid, 73, of Crieff, Perthshire, a member of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association. "Talking about medals and money in the same breath has always seemed to us rather in-

fra-dig," he said.
"And we'd generally had people in charge of the association who probably weren't in desperate need of money, so it wouldn't have been something we'd campaign for ourselves. So

this is marvellous."
As a 21-year-old flight lieutenant, Mr Reid and the crew of his Lancaster were injured when they came under fire on the outward leg of a bombing mission to Dusseldorf. They flew on with a shattered windscreen, no oxygen and only the According to Mr Reid, who

der injuries, the freezing cock-pit helped the crew survive as it slowed the bleeding.

They successfully completed their mission and crash landed in Norwich. Mr Reid was awarded the Victoria Cross for his heroism.

Many of the surviving 33 Victoria Cross and 48 George Cross heroes, now mostly in their seventies and eighties, have since had trouble making ends meet. Some have had to sell their homes and a number of the Gurkha holders have had

particular problems.

The Prime Minister took up their cause after the VE Day celebrations when he became aware of their plight. Yester-day's rise to £1,300 restores the payment to slightly more than its previous value in real terms: £100 in 1959 is worth £1,190 at

today's prices.

Mr Reid said he was delighted at the increased annuity, adding that it would make life "a little easier" for many of

his fellow veterans. "This will make a big difference to some folk. There are some older people who haven't got a good pension. A lot of the Gurkhas and Indian people are living in penury."

He said the gesture was greatly appreciated.

Age Concern welcomed the

move but argued that a whole series of other benefits have not been uprated by inflation - including the £10 Christmas bonus, introduced in 1972, which would be worth £66 today, and capital limits used for means-testing which have excluded many potential

Tax change on pensions could allow long-term care cover

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

Changes to the pension tax regime that would allow people to cover themselves on retirement for long-term care in residential and nursing homes were foreshadowed yesterday by the Prime Minister.

Schemes that ministers are examining include: Allowing people to forego say 10 per cent of their pension who needs long-term care. Providing tax relief where in-dividuals commute part of their lump sum into a long-term insurance on retirement.

on long-term care insurance served for their children or ple's homes for inheritance, policies for those below pension—others to inherit. age - easing the means test for places in homes so that in- in Blackpool that we don't have for their own retirement should would allow people to forego mounting pressure on ministers payment if they needed long- on tick."

and a scheme where an indithe cash put into trust when they to pay for long-term care.
were admitted to long-term Some ministers, including care. The interest would be Peter Lilley, Secretary of State In addition ministers are used to pay home charges but considering allowing tax relief the capital sum would be pre-

at retirement to buy a much higher payment should they be help people with £16,000 savamong the one in six or eight mgs, against £8,000 at present and Whitehall over how to pay nursing home bills in ortackle the growing problem of vidual's home would be sold but the elderly losing their homes

> for Social Security, oppose special measures to preserve peoarguing that individuals who But John Major's admission have been encouraged to save

to pay nursing home bills in or-der that children can inherit.

The Treasury is also opposed to tax relief for long-term care premiums, arguing that would distort the tax system and place pensions and care insurance on an unequal footing

Kenneth Clarke, the Chan-

part of their pension, or have to act reflected in the social seterm care had been outlawed by their lump sums, as a means of

providing for long-term care. Another option is to allow those approaching retirement to put more into their pension funds than currently allowed if it was clear the money would be

ring-fenced for long-term care. An announcement in No-

Wednesday, with several representatives demanding action. Paul Seymour, a leading fig-

ure in the Continuing Care Conference, an alliance of in-

more favourable treatment of curity debate at Blackpool on the Inland Revenue but appeared now to appeal to ministers. It would provide "the more flexible use of pensions"

which the Mr Major promised. However, he appears to have surers, pressure groups and ruled out a new unfunded na-charities involved in care of the tional insurance to pay for longelderly, said yesterday that a term care - arguing that commercial product which al- amounted to "issuing blank cellor, is understood to be more vember's Budget looks in- lowed people to commute their cheques for our children to sympathetic to schemes which creasing likely with the pensions in return for a higher pick up, in other words, living



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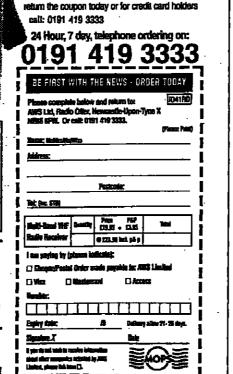
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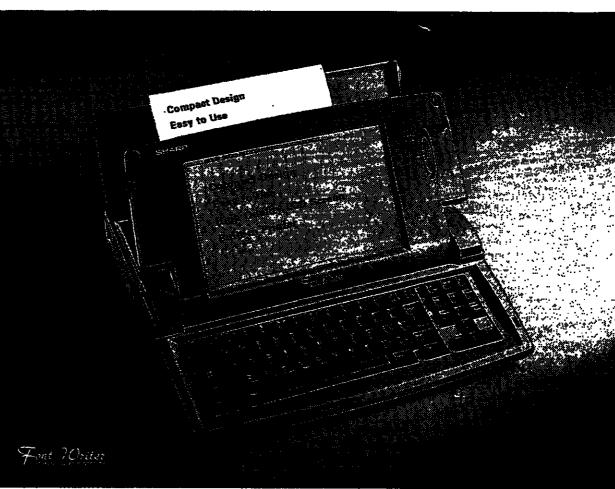
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Major prepares party for 'the fight of our lives'

Stephen Goodwin

Parliamentary Correspondent

the Tory party healed and hungry for a fifth term in office. He old the conference that millions their minds and set out to attract them with the prospect of tax cuts and a pledge of more police officers.

Mr Major said the share of public expenditure had to be cut to below 40 per cent of GNP and promised to double the assisted places scheme under which a limited number of bright children from less welloff homes get help to go to a private school.

"Our hopes for our country are not tired. Our ambitions are not dimmed," the Prime Minister said at the close of a speech lasting 70 minutes. "We stand for a wise and kindly way of life that is rooted deep in our

If Labour was beaten one more time, he said, socialism would have been driven out of Britain for good. Whoever won the next election would inherit the strongest economy for decades: "We built that economy. It wasn't easy ... and I'm not in the mood to hand it over to all that ... so we're going to mount the fight of our lives."

The road to hell was paved The Social Chapter would clobber businesses, the minimum wage would destroy jobs and unions would be given privileges dreamt of in the 1970s.

In the briefest of references, John Major yesterday declared Mr Major said that the Liberal Democrats supported all of Labour's "nonsense". But it did not matter. "As we saw the of voters had still to make up other day, they're the only party in British political history that has had its entire battle plans wiped clean off the media by a goldfish – my goldfish."

The millennium would bring the nation's wealth taken by shifts in world power, more competition, furious changes in technology and, even with growing wealth, more welfare problems. The state could not do everything. "We should help in-dividuals shape their own future. Help them - but not nanny them. Conservatism is choice. Choice is liberty ... we should ofwith every policy we devise.

"But if there's one thing in our Tory tradition that has insorred me, that helped bring me into this party, it's our historic recognition that not everyone is thrusting and confident and fit. Many are not, and they deserve our protection."

Mr Major said that in the recession, taxes had had to be raised to protect the vulnerable. 'Now the recession is over, and as soon as prudent but not before, we must get taxes down any other party to wreck after again. I don't only mean income tax. I mean the taxes that damare investment and stultify wealth creation." Inheritance with Labour's good intentions. and capital gains tax had to be cut and ultimately abolished. The Prime Minister drew loud applause for a personal

commitment to small business-

more jobs, he said. "When I was a small boy, my bread and butsmall business. He made garden some people find that rather humorous. I don't. I see the proud, stubborn, independent old man I loved who ran the firm and taught me to love my country, fight for my own and spit in the

eye of malign fate." The party faithful were similarly delighted by his forthright rejection of a federal Europe. "Often in the watches of the night I have pondered the choices. But federalism wouldn't work for us. Our partners must understand that it is politically and constitutionally unacceptable." Britain had entered Europe for prosperity, for co-operation, for a louder voice, not for a new tier of govern-ment. "If others go federalist.

Conservative Britain will not." Turning to education, Mr Major said it remained top of his agenda. He announced the doubling of the assisted places scheme, which currently helps 37,000 children, and an aim of enabling all schools to become grant-maintained. The message from Labour, he said, was "no choice for the poor".

Mr Major told the story of a Victoria Cross holder without a ticket for the VJ Day celebrations, ending with the announcement that the £100 annuity paid to holders of the VC and George Cross is to be uprated to £1.300 - "to show that this country has not forgotten the bravest of the brave".



He recommitted himself to a permanent peace in Northern Ireland and to the union with Scotland. "It is my duty as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to warn of the effect

of Labour's plans for the

constitution. The constitution is

guts of the way of life in the United Kingdom ... Labour are proposing changes to our constitution for their own party political advantage."

Concluding with a forceful passage on crime, he promised

the core, the heart and the 5,000 more police officers on the guts of the way of life in the beat, 10,000 more closed-circuit TV cameras in town centres, a national squad to fight organ-ised crime, and a Bill to enable MI5 to support the police.

In an age when children were more likely to be killed by a drug

sile, it was absurd that the law restricted MI5 to combating espionage and terrorism, he said. Trying to reclaim the law-andorder initiative from the Labour

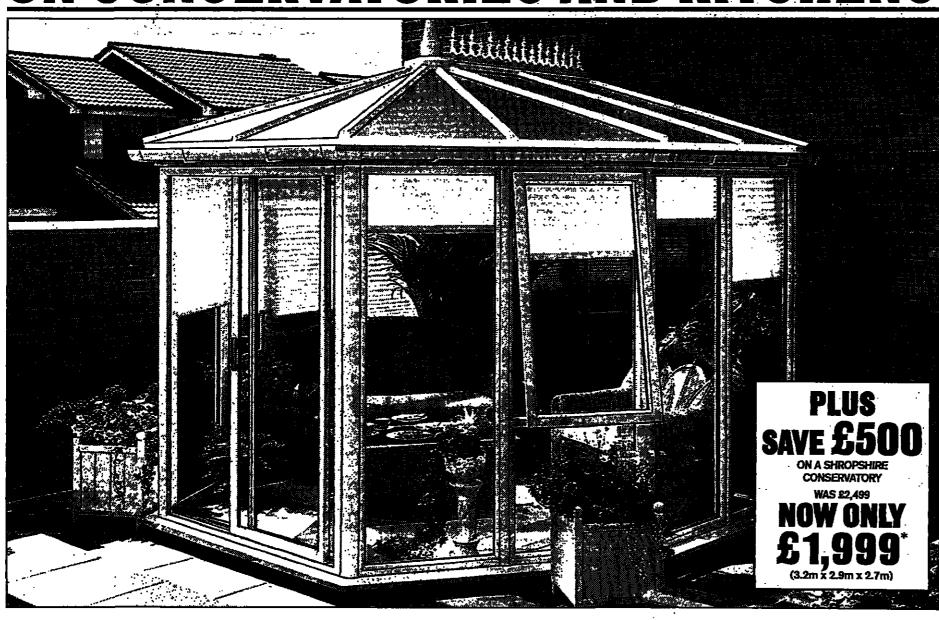
Party, he said the Government was going to hit crime harder

and harder and stand up for dealer than by an enemy mispeople in Britain's inner cities. feet, Mr Major said the Tories were building the greatest suc-

cess for the nation in a lifetime. "We will not surrender them to

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Smug speeches, pat sound-bites and a lot of balls

Labour did its best for Tony Blair last week, but it still has a iot to learn about stage man-

aging a leader's speech.

John Major, like Blair, is not in the same league of public pleasers as Michael Heseltine; Leyton Orient to his Liverpool. But, to paraphrase Joe Cocker, who has soundtracked this conference with his dreary Officer and a Gentleman theme, yesterday Mr Major got by with a lot of help from his friends. His pals were out in force in the morning, filling the hall in Blackpool with Union Jacks, long before the Prime Minister had even left his hotel. One man wandered the aisles wrapped in the flag in the manner of a low-rent football yob, seeking out photographers, anxious to get himself in the

morning's papers.

Up on the platform, the Cabinet, too, lined up as you would expect: Rifkind, Dorrell and Clarke to the left of where he would stand; Howard, Lilley and Portillo to the right. After fif-teen minutes of waiting, the video screen above their heads came alive, presenting a pack-

age of conference highlights. Smug speeches, self-right-eous delegates, pat sound-bites: no one could accuse Conservative Central Office of presenting an inaccurate summation of the past week. And then Mr Major appeared, with Norma at his side, at the top of a set of Busby Berkeley steps which had replaced the vast proscenium which had been there all week. He waddied down and stood behind a lecturn, as if reading the lesson in his parish church. It was a shrewd move, immediately making him more human, more relaxed, more in touch than the automotons nodding and clapping up on the over-sized set be-hind him. But not more funny.

As a comedian, John Major is still-born. Merely saying the words "Humphrey the Cat" is not the same as saying something funny about Humphrey the Cat. And as for the passage assaulted by make about Tony Blair having the a friend in need.



same name as George Orwell (aka Eric Blair), but not yet changing it like Orwell did. though he has changed everything else; there was only one verdict: balls. Major-Balls, actually. Fortunately, his speechwriting friends didn't linger on the gags. Their theme was sub-stance. "I am sick of policy by I think that's what he said, it was not on the lists of "key quotes for media" handed out by the Conservative briefing unit an hour before the speech.

 Also humanity, Major wiping away a tear, as he spoke about how much he loved his old dad, Mr Major-Ball. It was a good speech: not a blood-curdler, but warm, humane and thus a first for the week. It lasted 70 minutes, was interrupted by 74 bursts of applause, and. at the finish he stood surrounded on the steps by the Cabinet; his friends - the Cambridge mafia Shephard, Clarke, Gummer - at the front, Michael Portillo at the back, on the top step. From where, incidentally, everyone got a full view of the great new patriot failing abjectly to join in the singing of "Land Of Hope And Glory". Then Major plunged into the crowd, to shake hands, ac-

cept plaudits and remind Labour of his flesh-pressing strength. Norma went with him and Brian Mawhinney too. As he passed where I was standing, submerged in a sea of flag-wavers, he looked as though he had lost his bearings completely. "Which way now?" he said. "Left, left, left, Prime Minister." ordered Mawhinney, proving, as he did last June when Major was assaulted by malevolent aliens,

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Wests 'seemed happier' after girl vanished

WILL BENNETT

Rosemary and Frederick West seemed very happy the day af-ter Cromwell Street lodger Shirley Robinson - who was pregnant by Mr West - disap-peared. Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

They claimed that 18-year-old Shirley, who had said that she had become frightened of them, had gone to live in Germany. They later said they were keep-ing in touch with her and that her baby had been born.

The remains of Shirley, who disappeared in May 1978, and those of her unborn child, were found at the Wests' home in Cromwell Street when a murder inquiry began 16 years

Details of Shirley's last known movements were given to the court yesterday by Elizabeth Brewer, a friend and fellow lodger at 25 Cromwell Street, who shared her bedroom there with Shirley for a time.

She was giving evidence at the trial of Mrs West, 41, who denies murdering 10 girls and young women whose remains were found at Cromwell Street and at the Wests' previous home in Gloucester. Mr West, who was charged with 12 murders, was found dead in his prison cell on 1 January this

Mrs Brewer said she had let Shirley use her bed while she slept on the couch, because Shirley was pregnant and had told her that "things had become strained with the Wests".

She said: "Shirley was becoming very emotional about Mr West. She was frightened of the Wests and she wanted to keep away from them. She wanted to stay in my room."

One day Mrs Brewer went to meet some friends. She said: "I asked Shirley if she wanted to come along but she was far too tired. She was about eight months pregnant at the time."

that afternoon, Shirley had gone and she thought that she might have patched up her re-lationship with the Wests and moved out of the bedroom.



Elizabeth Brewer:

The next morning, she met the Wests at the bottom of the stairs. Mr West told her that Shirley had left partly because she was visiting relatives in Germany and also because she had been fantasising about les-bian sex with Mrs Brewer.

found at the house.

so insecure that she wanted con-

The case was adjourned

stant attention.

until Monday.

Mrs Brewer said: "Mrs West was looking over his shoulder nodding and agreeing with everything he was saying. They appeared very happy."

Brian Leveson QC, for the

prosecution, asked who had been at the house the day Shirley vanished. Mrs Brewer replied: "I think the two other lodgers worked but I can't be certain about that. I think that Mr West would have been at work and the Wests' children ould be at school."

Mr Leveson asked: "Who looked after the little children?" Mrs Brewer replied: "Mrs West." She added that she could not recall Mrs West ever going out in the daytime, although she did in the evenings.

Mrs Brewer said: "I was led to believe that they were keep-ing in touch with Shirley in Germany and I would often ask if she had had the baby. They said yes and that it was a baby boy and she had called him Barry.

She was told that Shirley was planning to return to 25 Cromwell Street and that Mrs West was going to look after the

During cross examination by Richard Ferguson QC, defending, Mrs Brewer said that both Shirley and Mr West had told her that Mrs West was jealous because the girl was expecting his baby.

She said that when Mr West told her that Shirley had had lesbian sexual fantasies about her, "I almost felt glad that she had

Mrs Brewer admitted that she had signed a £10,000 coutract with a newspaper for her

Jane Bayle, a cousin of Mrs Cromwell Street, told the court that Shirley had slept in the Wests' joint bedroom for a time. She said: "She was baving a sexual relationship with both of them.

Claire Rigby, another lodger at Cromwell Street, said that about a week or two after Shirley disappeared, she saw Mrs West bundling clothes into bags in the missing girl's own bedroom. She presumed that the clothes were Shirley's.

Health records read to the inry showed that Shirley had had a positive pregnancy test on 18 October, 1977 and that the child was due to be born about 11 June, 1978. She was last seen at the health centre on 2 May,

Gillian Britt, who also lived

Council to sack all staff in pay cut manoeuvre

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

The drive to cut costs in local government has reached a new intensity with Labour-controlled Coventry City Council threatening to dismiss its 17,000 staff and re-employ them on reduced terms and conditions.

Unions have been told that the West Midlands authority wants to achieve more than £20m of savings over the next three years by cutting pay and holiday entitlement rather than services or jobs. The lowest paid will be hit hardest with many losing around £500 a year, according to union officials.

The news follows the Prime Minister's pledge to the Conservative Party conference that the Government would be "ruthless" in seeking future

savings in public expenditure. Officials at Unison, the publie service union, said yesterday that while tight restrictions on budgets had caused serious problems for councils throughout Britain, Coventry was the first to threaten to impose new contracts on employees by first

dismissing them. Local authorities have been told by ministers to restrict expenditure increases this year to 0.5 per cent at a time when in-

flation is nearly 4 per cent. Coventry has given its emloyees three months' notice from 31 December of the new pay and conditions. Hugh Robertson, national official of Unison, described the decision as "outrageous". He said a 12-point plan from management had "come out of the blue" and council representatives had said it was not up for negotiation.

Tricia Davis, head of local government for Unison in the West Midlands, called for an independent report on the council's finances. She said the union planned to make a series of proposals for reducing spending which would avoid the need to

undermine pay and conditions.

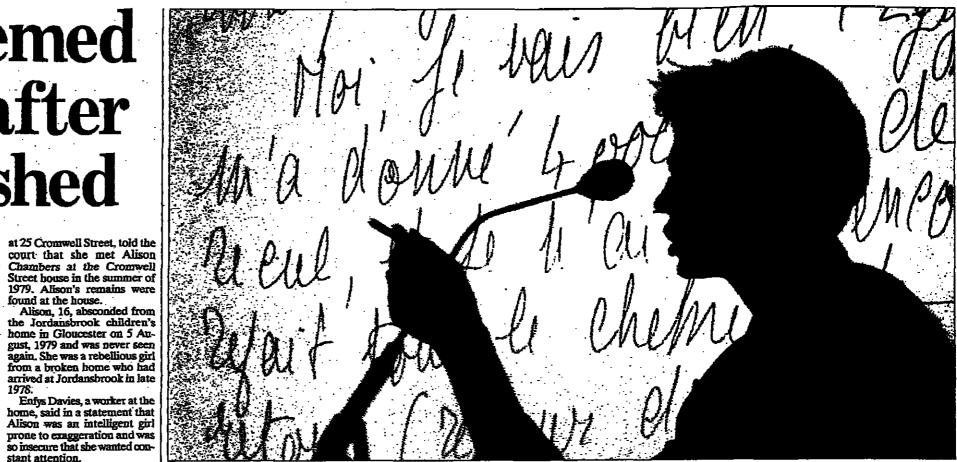
John McNicholas, the Labour councillor responsible for human resources at the council, said that the lowest rates earned by council employees - £3.71 an hour compared favourably with the private sector. He said the council would not be reducing pay and conditions below nationally agreed levels and hoped to ar-

He said the threat of dismissal was a "technicality". Management could only introduce new contracts of employment by giving due notice. dismissing employees and then immediately reinstating them. Mr Robertson said other lo-

rive at a negotiated settlement.

cal authorities had faced serious financial problems but none had so far reacted with such

"draconian" measures.
Paul Marwood of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said that strict government financial policies had forced cutbacks on local authorities. Savings had been made in many areas, but some councils were now being forced to look at pay and conditions.



r addressing the 10th World Congress on Graphology at the Park Lane Hotel, London, yesterday. It is the first time the event has been held in Britain and handwriting experts hope it will help to promote understanding of their 'science'

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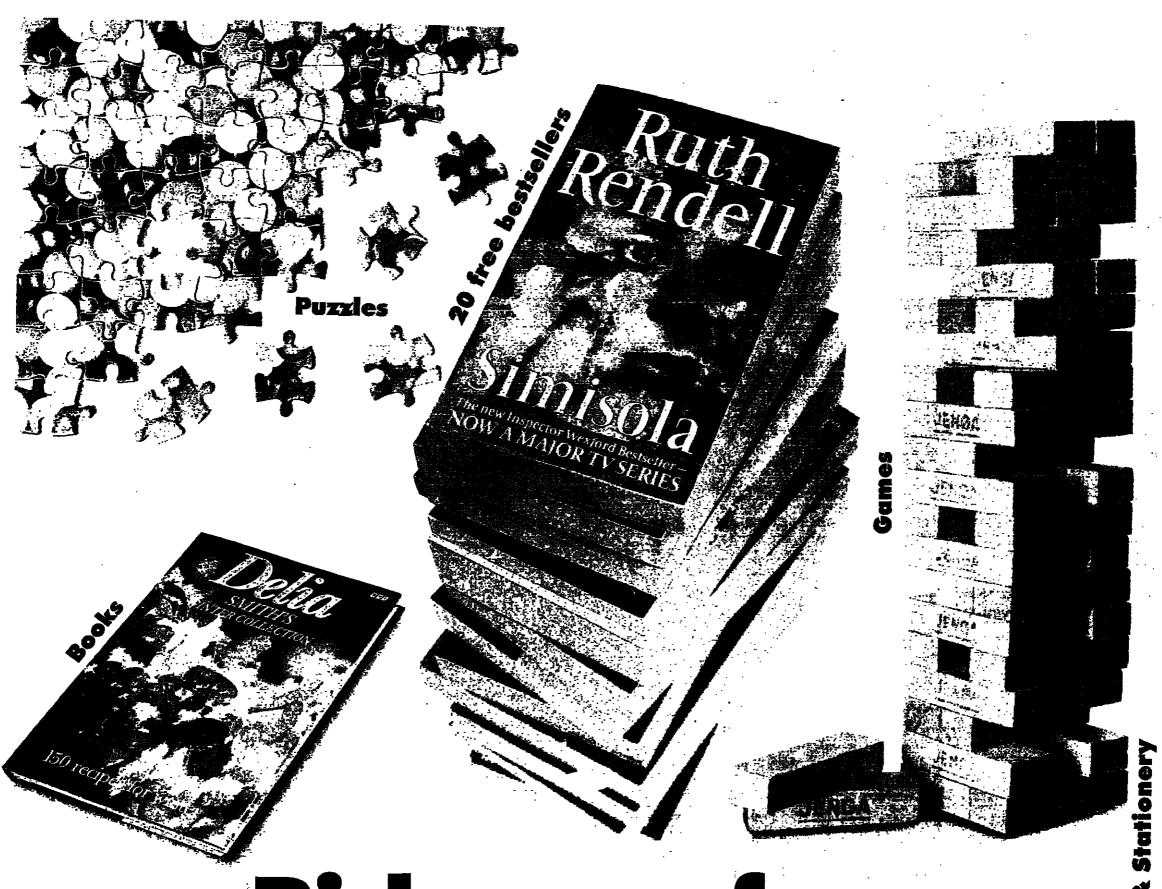
valleys or wonderful panoramas. Only the tailbacks are spectacular. But in a car like the Punto Sporting you could be forgiven for enjoying the experience. While waiting in neutral you could look at the racy red dials and the sports steering wheel which packs a 42 litre airbag. Or you could blast Beethoven's Ode to Joy on the 4x30 watt music system. And when the traffic does move, so does the Punto. Its 1.6 multipoint fuel injected engine will get it moving quicker than you can say Dartford Tunnel contraflow. Power steering, central locking. are all standard, and an immobiliser makes sure that only you have fun, and not the car thieves. With Fiat Easiplan you could be enjoying a trip in the Fiat Punto tomorrow. Punto prices start from £7.340* on the road. For more information, call 0800 71 7000 or visit your local dealer. The M25 will never be the same again.



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Defence of the realm: Shortage of fighting fit young recruits may force Army chiefs to bring in legendary colonial regiment

Gurkhas on alert to bolster Paras' depleted infantry

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

The Army is considering using the Gurkhas, its feared soldiers recruited in the mountains of Nepal, to fill gaps in the ranks of British infantry, and in par-ticular the Parachute Regiment. Britain's infantry regiments, which should total 24,000 sol-

diers, are short of 1,200 frontline fighting men. As the Independent on Sunday revealed last week, the Paras, who are 12 per cent under strength, have a particular problem. Youngsters are not as fit as they used to be, and therefore fewer pass the rigorous selection tests.

But the Paras may not like the solution - because the wiry Nepalese are tougher than they are, and do better in the punishing 'P' Company tests, as their physique is ideal for carrying heavy loads for long distances at speed, and they have a good head for heights.

Army sources yesterday said the proposal to use soldiers from the 4,000-strong Brigade of Gurkhas was "an idea floating around the Ministry of Defence", but it makes good sense. The idea is to attach platoons (about 30 soldiers each) or Royal Gurkha Rifles, leaving companies (130 soldiers) of only two infantry battalions,

Gurkhas to bring British infantry battalions (about 650 soldiers) up to strength. Unlike the other infantry

regiments of the British Army, the Gurkhas have no recruiting problem: to serve in the regiment, which has been part of the British Army since 1815, is regarded as a great honour and there are hundreds of applicants for every place. But the Gurkhas' survival has been in doubt, especially in view of the imminent British withdrawal from Hong Kong. To use the Gurkhas to fill gaps in the rest of the infantry would be logical. The Gurkhas surpass the most exacting physical stan-dards - those of the Parachute Regiment - and there were Gurkha parachute units during

the Second World War. There are currently three Gurkha battalions: one in Britain, at Church Crookham in Hampshire, one in Brunei and one in Hong Kong. There are also Gurkha Transport, Signals and Engineer regiments. The Transport Regiment is serving

Next year the second and third battalions will amalgamate to form 2nd Battalion, the

both of which will be based in Britain when Hong Kong re-turns to Chinese rule. By that time the Gurkhas will have shrunk from their present strength of 4,000 to 2,500.

Dr David Clark, the Labour defence spokesman, yesterday accused the Government of "mismanaging" the armed forces, resulting in the shortage of front line infantry. Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, invoked the motto of the SAS - "who dares wins" - at the party conference this week. But it appears it is not the SAS who are coming to his rescue. It is the Gurkhas, motto "Kaphar hannu bhanda marnu ramro" - "better to die than



Members of the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Gurkha Rifles, on parade at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Aldershot, yesterday

Escape inquiry puts blame on **Prison Service**

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent.

A damning inquiry into the esers from Parkhurst jail will blame all levels of the Prison director general, down to offi-

cers at the jail itself. The report to be published next week concludes: The numerous failures indicate there were many hands on the tiller on this voyage to disaster. This is not due to one person's folly because many of the ingre-dients can be traced along lines of communication to the Prison

Service headquarters." The Independent has learnt that the inquiry into the escape in January of two killers and an arsonist, who remained at large for almost a week, identifies a catalogue of failure at the jail - drug and alcohol abuse, poor search procedures, poor management and the appeasement of inmates in return for an easier life for staff.

However, it has also concluded that the then governor, John Marriott - who was removed from his duties after the escape and is now about to retire - was snowed under by bureaucracy. He was dealing with 60 hours of paperwork a week, making "governing" aimost im-Crucially, it notes that Mr

Marriott's warning of a possible escape had gone unheeded by Prison Service headquar-



ters. He had even predicted the most likely escape route.

Headquarters repeatedly turned down his and previous governors' "persistent and legitimate" requests for electronic perimeter sensors, cameres and guard dogs - com-mon to all other top-security jails. Had they been installed at a cost of about £420,000 - the escape would not have succeeded, it concludes.

The report by Sir John Learmont, the former Army Quartermaster General, also concludes that high-risk prisoners should not have been held in the jail at the time of the escape because it was undergoing major refurbishment. "It is quite extraordinary that so much effort was invested in persuading the Parkhurst management to continue to accept Category A prisoners, including high risks, whilst doing do little in ensuring tried and tested

and legitimate requests," it says. Sir John was particularly con-cerned at the amount of goods and money inmates were allowed to accrue. When two inmates were moved to another jail, it cost £466 to move all their belongings. The removal of 20 other prisoners on another oc-casion, involved moving £26,000

security technology was in-

in bank accounts. The main recommendation of the report is for a super-secure prison to hold all the country's most dangerous prisoners. It will also propose weekend prisons, enabling less serious offenders to keep their jobs but to be

locked up in their free time. Sir John will also recommend that jails are run by the state, not the private sector and that Prison Service headquarters be cut right back

David Roddan, of the Prison Governors Association, said vesterday Sir John's criticisms indicated that the removal of Mr Marriott was "at best made in panie, at worse vindictive".

Leeson closes £450,000 deal for his memoirs

Barings Bank for a reported

Philippa Harrison, managing director of Little Brown UK. which bought the memoirs, said they were "full of revelations" and likely to embarrass a number of people. Fred Newman, editor of Pub-

lishing News, said he understood Little Brown had won the auction with a bid of about £450,000, and he estimated that worldwide book rights alone might make £1m.

Ms Harrison said: "Nick Leeson's manuscript about his last two years is the most compul-

Nick Leeson, the rogue bank trader, yesterday sold his story of the £860 million collapse of plasterer who ... got involved in plasterer who ... got involved in a greater gambling binge than any fiction writer could imagine in their wildest dreams."

Ms Harrison said Mr Leeson named names in the book, which is being written in col-laboration with a journalist and former banker, Edward Whitley, and is about half-finished.

"It's the most fast-reading, exciting story that you could imagine, and it's full of revela-tions. It hasn't been read by lawyers yet," she said, speaking at the Frankfurt Book Fair. just miles from the jail where Mr Leeson, 28, is being held pending extradition to Singapore.



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Interest grows in 'new' cures

GLENDA COOPER

One in four Scottish GPs has already taken a "crash course" in complementary medicine in response to demand from patients, the Ciba Foundation on complementary therapies was

told yesterday. And of 700 Glasgow medical students questioned, nearly four-fifths said they wanted complementary medicine, which includes homeopathy and acupuncture, to be part of an undergraduate curriculum. Dr David Reilly, consultant physician at Glasgow Home-

opathy hospital, said. But medical schools had not shifted in line with public in-terest, leaving doctors out of touch with such methods. "Their feelings were summed up in one sentence: 'Our patients know more than we do he said. "Health care professionals are entering the community in ignorance.

Professor Edzard Ernst, from

University, said UK medical schools believed in teaching what students needed to know rather than what they wanted to

In the US, by contrast, between 25 and 30 medical schools out of a total of 140 now taught complementary medicine. Dr Ted Kaptchuk, of the Center for Alternative Medicine Research, Beth Israel Hospital, Harvard, added: "The UK is usually ahead in education but for some curious reason research [in complementary medicine] in the US is ahead of the UK." In 1991-92, the NHS spent an

estimated £1m on complementary medicine out of a total budget of £37bn. Dr Adrian White, also from Exeter's Centre for Complementary Health, said that the public themselves spent between £500m and £1bn.

However. he warned: "An acupuncture needle may cost the same as a painkiller, but one has to bear in mind that consultations can take six times as long and patients may have to attend 10 times as frequently."

Conservation clash: Cash windfall for hydro-electricity behind threat to protected areas



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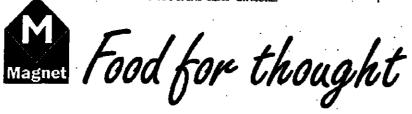
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National Park in fight to dam rise of water power

Plans are being drawn up to build a hydro-electric power station in the shadow of Cnicht mountain, dubbed the Welsh. Matterhorn, in spite of local objections and concern from the Snowdonia National Park.

Agents working for the Bran-damw estate, whose creator, Clough Williams Ellis, built the village of Portmeirion, in Gwynedd, have been holding talks with the National Park about the project to tap the water of the river Croesor.

The increasing number of such approaches are causing concern. To date, more than 20 developers and landowners have inquired about setting up bydro-electric schemes on

5 rivers in the region. The rush to develop has been sparked by government legis-lation. The electricity companies are forced to produce a percentage of their energy from non-fossil fuels. A premium is paid to those who supply it. Small hydro-electricity generating stations provide a minuscule source of power but generate a great deal of wealth

Strict planning conditions are being imposed by the National Park authority anxious at may be caused. But the proposal by the Brandanw estate may prove hard to resist.

Hydro-electricity has been generated here in the past. Before the First World War a dam was built above Croesor to hydro-electricity station ran a 30-horsepower locomotive and slate quarry. The power station

Dr Rod Gritten, an ecologist working for the National Park who lives in the Croesor valley, said: "These schemes are damaging to an important habital in a beautiful part of the world in order to produce a pittance of

electricity and to make good money for private companies. "Rather than keep dealing with a flood of individual applications we would rather the Government chose something else to spend its money on. These schemes are viable only because the Government wants to be seen to be being green." He said the Brandanw estate,

advised by a developer, had originally considered damming three rivers. "As a local I was very concerned because two of the rivers are very beautiful and

have been given that plans to develop on these two rivers have been dropped."

A villager in Croesor said many locals took a fatalistic view about the development. "If it happens, it happens, one form Llyn Cwm Y Foel and a farmer said. But he wanted the power project scrapped. "Having lived in the area for many the lights and equipment at a years, all of a sudden somebody decides they want to make money. They don't live here and and quarry have gone but the lake remains, though the dam has been lowered. have no interest in the valley apart from their profits."

The National Park has published a policy requiring all pipelines to be buried with no damage to the landscape or water courses. But planning offi-cers believe this latest proposal

could have a chance of success. Careth Lloyd, a senior planning officer with the National Park, said one difficulty was the history of hydro-electric schemes in Snowdonia. Two large operations date back to the 1920s.

Mr Lloyd said the National Park had a policy of limiting power stations to under five megawatts with restrictions on making works as unobtrusive as possible. "It could well be the conditions will make the power station unviable." he said.

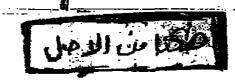
Nobody from the Brandanw estate's agents was available to comment yesterday.



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Neo-Nazis who killed five Turks are jailed

Bonn - A German court yesterday meted out stiff sentences to four skinheads convicted of carrying out what is regarded as the country's worst racist attack since the war. The torching of an immigrant house in Solingen two years ago cost the lives of two women and three girls from a Turkish family, and sparked furious protests worldwide.

Three of those jailed, regarded as juveniles under the law, received the maximum 10 years, but the fourth defendant, who had faced life imprisonment, was given a 15-year sentence. That provoked renewed accusations that the courts remain soft on racist crime.

"The sentences show that Germany has not learned from its fascistic Hitler past," complained Suez Kolsuz, one of 200 Turks who had gathered outside the court in Dusseldorf to hear the verdict. "The judges should have sent out a signal that xenophobia and the murder of foreigners cannot go without proper punishment," said Kemal Kiran, chairman of a local Turkish organisation.

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DOW!

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But throughout the 18month trial, the prosecution's efforts to obtain maximum punishment were hampered by the lack of direct evidence. Their case rested on the testimony of two of the accused: Markus Gartmann, now 25, and Christian Reher, 19. But Gartmann,



said: "I am infinitely ashamed of what we did," later retract-ed his confession, and Reher

maintained he had acted alone. Reher gave a Nazi salute as he was being driven away after the

Police failed to obtain physical evidence from the ruins of the bouse, and there were allegations from the defendants that the confessions had been obtained under duress. Gartmann police had threatened to lock him up in a cell with Turks.

The two other defendants, Felix Köhnen, now 18, and Christian Buchholz, 22, pleaded not guilty throughout. "You swine. I am innocent," Köhnen shouted at the chief judge, Wolfgang Steffen, as the sen-

The house at number 81 Uncontended at one point that the . tere Werner Strasse in Solingen, a nondescript industrial town near Cologne, no longer stands. Only a small memorial nearby remains to testify to the horrors of the night two years ago when the home of the Genc family was consumed by the flames of

Although arguments about yesterday's verdict will go on -

the three juveniles are appealing against the sentence - the basic facts are beyond dispute. All Germans accept that what happened in Solingen on the night of 29 May 1993 was the manifestation of a latent xenophobia which, despite the lessons of recent history, can still

erupt without warning. The immediate cause of out-

skinheads out looking for a good time on Friday night tried to gatecrash a stag party, but were thrown out by the landlord of the pub and his two Yugoslav friends. In the youths' enraged minds the Yugoslavs became Turks - the lowest form of life in skinhead ideology - and they vowed revenge. They went to a petrol station, bought a can of

81, the "Turks' house" opposite the home of one of the youths. All 14 people in the house were asleep. The skinheads sneaked in poured the petrol over a wooden chest and set fire to it with a rolled-up newspaper. They were seen by a neighbour

as they fled. The police investigation later established that Gartmann belonged to the neo-

Volks Union, and the others had all been neo-Nazi sympathisers. "We are going to set the Turks' house on fire," one of them had vowed. The other members of the lynch party had kept swastikas and neo-Nazi literature at home.

Solingen came in the wake of a series of racist attacks in Germany, starting in the East after reunification and spreading slowly to the more prosperous western parts. Shocked Germans held candle-lit vigils and mass demonstrations throughout the country, and politicians were quick to condemn xenophobia; although Chancellor Helmut Kohl was conspicu-ously absent from the funeral of

the Solingen victims. Fears of the country being engulfed by resurgent xenophobia proved unjustified, however, Although violent acts against foreigners continue, especially in the East, there has been no repetition of Solingen, and the neo-Nazi tide appears to be obbing. The Republican Party, the most prominent extreme right-wing group, did not even come close to gaining a scat in last year's parliamentary elections.

The Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, who had attended the burial of the five victims in Turkey, said yesterday the verdict had made clear that "our state cannot and will not accept violence, whoever it is from or

Nato chief pressed to go as trial hearing begins

SARAH HELM

As Nato officials started detailed planning yesterday for peace enforcement in the Balkans, Willy Claes, the alliance's secretary-general, was appearing before a Belgian parmentary commission considering whether he should stand trial on corruption charges.

Mr Claes is accused of counpaid by Agusta, the Italian helicopter firm, to the Flemish Socialist Party in 1988.

Even before the outcome, expectations continued to grow in Brussels that Mr Claes would be obliged to resign within days, and informal speculation mounted over who would be the most likely successor. Douglas Hurd, the former British Foreign Secretary, remains a front runner, although Mr Hurd's past reluctance to intervene militarily in the former Yugosiavia could count against him, especially with Washington.

The credibility of the Nato al-liance, already shaken by the affair, which has been running for

months, can only have been further damaged yesterday as television cameras flashed pictures of Mr Claes, a former Belgian foreign minister, arriving for the judicial hearing. The hearing is taking place just at a time when Nato needs to shore up its credibility in order to win backing for its newly assigned role

in the former Yugoslavia.

The secretary-general him-self, however, still showed no With a relaxed grin he appeared determined to brazen out the affair, seeming confident that his immunity from prosecution - granted to all Belgian ministers and ex-ministers would not be lifted -

Nevertheless, it is now widely accepted that should the parliamentary commission decide there is sufficient evidence to lift Mr Claes's immunity, his term as secretary-general of Nato will be finished. A decision on whether to lift the immunity is expected within a few days. Nato sources said last night that if a trial does go ahead, "Mr

send the men in white suits because that would be embarrassing, but we would expect him to behave like a gentleman and take responsibility."

Until this week's hearing, leaders of the 16 Nato member states, particularly those in Washington, London, Paris and Bonn, had hoped that the scaudal would burn out, and that Nato's pristine reputation could of murky Belgian politics.

Commenting on the prose-cution case, put to the parliamentary commission yesterday Mr Claes said he saw "not a single new element". He added: There is no fact. There are only so-called indications.

Inside the alliance it is taken as read that there would be enough evidence to convict Mr Claes at a full trial. This week, Robert Hunter, the US ambassador to Nato, stood by Mr Claes, but in terms which suggested he envisaged his demise: "Willy Claes led the alliance successfully from the beginning to end. This man has proved he is a worthy secretary-general."

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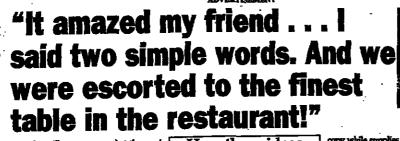
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Serbs threaten to quit talks as fighting rages on

The Bosnian Serb leadership threatened to withdraw from the peace process yesterday as its forces were pushed back in the north-west, where the ceasefire appears to have sunk without trace. Thousands of civilians were said to be fleeing Serb-held Prijedor, which seems in danger of falling to the government following the recent losses of Sanski Most and

"If the UN and international community don't do every-thing to stop the Muslims and Croats ... we will consider very seriously stepping out of the peace process and asking Yugoslavia to do the same," said Nikola Koljevic, a senior Serb official.

Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the UN commander in Bosnia, met Mr Koljevic near Sarajevo yesterday to hear the Serbs' complaints. "The Serbs are pretty upset. They say [the Bosnians are not playing by the rules," a UN source said.

sons for the fighting. The Bosni-ans claim it will take time to establish orders to cease fire: the Serbs accuse the Bosnians of attacking Prijedor. The second seems more likely.

Four shells landed in the town yesterday during a visit by Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader. The whole world is celebrating peace, but we don't have peace," he was quoted as saying. "America has brokered this cease-fire and it is obliged to stop them."

Serb sources reported panic and the flight of civilians to Banja Luka, where a curfew is in place and the situation is said to be tense. The loss of Sanski Most and Mrkonjic Grad has added to pressure on Banja Luka; the fall of Prijedor could be catastrophic to the Serbs.

The area around Sanski Most is of considerable concern, where deliberate fighting appears to be continuing and our assessment would be that around that area there has not been a ceasefire, purely a continuation of hostilities," said

non, a UN spokesman.

The UN High Commission er for Refugees said 40,000 people fled Prijedor yesterday, and that 5,000 had reached Banja Luka. The rest were in Omarska, site of a detention centre where many Muslims were killed by Serbs in 1992.

The displacement problem [in the Banja Luka area] is gi-gantic; there is no housing for these people. They are in aboun-mable conditions," Kris Janowski, a UNHCR spokesman in Sarajevo, said. "Sarajevo these days is much more relaxed than Banja Luka. There are cuts in the water supply, in the electricity supply and a general fear that the front lines will

move again. It's miserable."

The fighting has resulted in a fall in the number of Muslims expelled from the area, "They cannot organise themselves to organise 'ethnic cleansing' when they've got the front line movone official said. The International Red Cross reported fearful stories from those expelled in the past few days.





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most people suspect from the

enemy, and delusions are rife in

Sarajevo as it gets used to the cease-fire. The shooting echo-

agreement with the Serbs. Namik Brkonic, 19, switched on the bathroom light and blew up his family's flat. With 70 per cent burns, he is in a critical condition and may not even surrive planned evacuation to Italy for specialist treatment.

"He's a friend of mine," said Semira Viteskic, a nurse caring for Namik in Kosevo hospital. 'I could only recognise him by

his blue eyes. Namik and his parents, who also were burnt, are victims of the war as much as any sniper victim: the blue-striped garden hose piping gas illegally into a Amer Klepo, a taxi-driving buried within.

The longed-for ceasefire has claimed tragic new victims, writes Emma Daly

home-made burner is a typical household appliance here, where people have been forced to use any means possible to heat their homes through the bitter winters. "At first I thought it was a

shell, but when I saw there were no walls left on either side of the flat, I realised it was gas," said Namik's father, Ibrahim Brkouic, from the hospital bed where he lay, his hands and feet heavily bandaged. "It's very hard, because it happened on the day

The walls of the flat in a modem block, untouched by bullets or shrapnel, no longer exist. Not a brick or beam blocks the perfectly shaped holes in the ceil-

ing and the floor.

The sight brings tears to the eyes of visiting friends. "Perhaps it's better to freeze than have your house explode," Omer

Karalic said, grimly. That is about as far as choice extends for many Sarajevans. "We have gas and electricity, but no water, and that is what we need most to survive," said

soldier. "It is not peace or free-

dom," added his friend, Dzenan Mujcinovic. Their scepticism echoed that of another soldier - a Serb. "If they don't shoot, that's good. But I don't believe it. The Mus-

lims are not to be trusted. They have zero intelligence," spat out a man at a checkpoint on the main road from Sarajevo to Pale, the nearby headquarters of the Bosnian Serbs. No traffic had passed the checkpoint since the fighting

egan in April 1992. Weeds pushed through cracks in the tarmac, while plants overflowed from the verge. A detachment of peace-

keepers was hard at work, for the road leads to the besiege Muslim enclave of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia, and the Serbs deal to open it to convoys of aid.

Some young French soldiers knelt on the road before a layer of earth and stones two inches thick, scraping delicately with hunting knives, in search of the deadly plastic mines

On a cliff high above, three Serb soldiers watched. A hundred yards up the road, UN bulldozers unceremoniously brushed aside the metal barriers that for more than three years have signified the boundary of no man's land. A Serb soldier had to stand aside. It was not surprising that he was cross.

and he would not give his name. Would we, as civilians, have problems driving along the road? "No. I'll check your car for weapons and ammunition, and double-check, and then you can go," the soldier said, to an audience of journalists and French officers. Then the

peace-keepers drifted away. He added: "Yes, of course you'll have problems. The road is closed. I am nothing, I have to wait for orders from my commanders. You can come here, but no further.

Miroslay Cyoro, another Bosnian Serb soldier at the checkpoint, looked wistful. great, if both sides respect it. I just hope it's not another the end of the war," he said.

"We're all tired of war. We can hardly wait for peace to come." And that is true for almost all Sarajevans.

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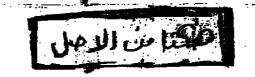
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Libya's secret war pits Islam against Gaddafi

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

An underground war has broken out in Libya between Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's secular regime and Islamic militants, threatening the stability of his 26-year rule with a series of shoot-outs and Algeria-style assassinations of secret police-

The old Italian colonial port of Benghazi has become the scene of ambushes and nighttime gunfights. Last week, Islamic activists in the city claimed to have shot dead Lieutenant Colonel Jum'ah Al-Faydi, of Libyan intelligence. A week earlier, gunmen am-bushed the head of a special unit set up to combat the religious

From the suburbs of Tripoli in the west, along the Mediter-ranean seaboard to Benghazi, Darnah and Al Bayda in the east, similar incidents have claimed dozens of lives through a simmering hot summer. In an ominous signal to Colonel Gaddafi, the trouble seems most intense in the eastern region, through which Libya's vital oil exports reach tankers

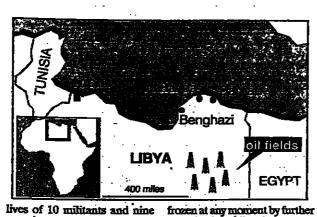
bound for Europe.

In response, the regime's security services, trained by the old
East German Stasi, have carried out mass arrests of Muslim activists and launched a violent campaign of repression, according to Western officials.

r the lim

"The situation in Libya seems to be approaching a point of no return," said the Islamic human rights group Liberty for the Muslim World, in a statement this week. "Unless the Libyan regime undergoes essential reforms, the tide of violence will sweep the entire country," it said. "Libya is the third north African country after Egypt and Algeria to be driven into this dark tunnel by the unwise and confused policies of its rulers."

The group gave details of the Benghazi attacks and reported other clashes, including a siege in Darnah during which the security forces fired rockets at a fundamentalist hideout before 10 incidents which claimed the nated accounts. These could be



ecurity Council action.

The combination of eco-

nomic decline, international

isolation and domestic unrest

poses the greatest threat to Colonel Gaddafi since he seized

power in a coup in 1969. The

new violence reflects a danger-

ous regional division in Libya.

Foreign businessmen detect a

possible fragmentation of the

lives of 10 militants and nine security men.

The violence has drawn Colonel Gaddafi into conflict with members of the esoteric Senussi sect, which in prerevolutionary Libya commanded adherents from the deserts to the coast for its ascetic, fundamentalist brand of Islam.

Secret police in Al Bayda are said to have arrested a prominent sect member, Abu Alraiqah, last mouth, together with 80 members of a powerful local tribe. Such measures pit the security apparatus against an influential, deep-rooted network in Libyan society whose charismatic founder united its warring tribes a century ago.

This clandestine struggle is a new, and doubtless alarming. source of pressure on Colonel Gaddafi, whose country is subject to United Nations sanctions for its refusal to extradite two intelligence agents sought on charges in connection with the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988.

Flights to and from the country are banned. Libya's delegate to the World Bank, Mohammed Bait Elmal, this week said the ban had cost his country over \$10bn (£6.4bn). He claimed that 685 Libyan children had died because of delays in getting medical supplies and that 13,500 patients had been unable to receive treatment abroad.

The UN also imposed restrictions on arms sales and diplomatic contacts. In addition, it in effect put Colonel Gaddaff's economy in a noose by requiring all payments for Libyan oil to be made through desirregime into competing tribal interest groups. Western intelligence sources say the pressure f sanctions has set off conflicts inside the vague and flexible Libyan power structure.

After the Islamic insurrection in Algeria and a fundamentalist guerrilla campaign against the Egyptian government, this violence will cause renewed concern in Europe. The ques-tion of Mediterranean security is high on the agenda for the Spanish presidency of the European Union, which has called a conference on the issue in

Barcelona later this autumn. Colonel Gaddafi has sent aissaries to bold secret talks with Western intelligence officials in Geneva in an effort to win concessions on the sanctions. He has gained none. Libva, like Iraq and Syria, is now living out the reality of the col-



Ominous signals: International isolation, domestic unrest and economic decline threaten Colonel Gaddafi's regime

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Uday Hussein split Iraq's ruling family two months ago when he opened fire with a submachine gun. The shots, fired at a party, badly wounded an uncle and prompted Uday's brothersin-law and their wives, daugh-ters of Saddam Hussein, to flee to Jordan. It was the biggest crisis for the government of President Saddam since defeat in the Gulf war in 1991.

The referendum tomorrow on President Saddam's leadership is directly related to the shooting by his son, and the flight of Hussein Kamel and Saddam Kamel, his sons-in-law, to Amman. It is the Iraqi leader's way of demonstrating to Iragis and the world that his grip on power is as strong as ever. Outside the three Kurdish provinces in the north, eight million Iraqi voters will ritually en-

The crisis has brought some changes. At the time he shot his uncle Watban - President Saddam's half-brother and the former interior minister - Uday Hussein had made himself virtual prime minister of Iraq. second only in power to his father. From a heavily protected yellow building on the east bank of the River Tigris, Uday ran much of the government and his own business enterprises. The building belongs to Olympic Committee. Watban,

His son embarrassed him, but the Iraqi leader is still in control and aims to prove it at the polls, writes Patrick Cockburn in Baghdad

the Iraqi Olympic Committee, of which Uday is chairman. Iraqi officials now say on the record that Uday will confine himself entirely to sport. Last week he was re-elected chairman of the Iraqi Football Association by 155 to nil.

Well-informed people in Baghdad tell stories of Uday's fall from grace, including one about how President Saddam, enraged by Uday splitting the family, personally visited the burning of his eldest son's collection of 60 cars.

Another rumour in Baghdad, which also cannot be checked for accuracy, says the Iraqi leader conducted a search of the Olympic Committee's headquarters. There, President Sad-dam supposedly discovered that the building contained a private jail maintained by Uday, and released three captives saving: "Iraq cannot have a state with-

Colourful details of Saddam Hussein's clampdown on his son may be disseminated in part by the regime itself. Lights still twinkle at night on every floor of the headquarters of the

and Iraqi doctors, is likely to lose the leg hit by Uday's bullet. Uday may retain more influence than his father pretends. Ultimately, however, iraq remains wholly under the control of Saddam Hussein.



He has survived the immediate crisis over the split in his family. At the same time Iraq's international isolation has never been more complete. Hopes that the Gulf war alliance would break up have proved false. King Hussein chose the moment of Hussein Kamei's defection to call for a change of hit. Neatly dressed Iraqis scrab-

despite treatment by Cuban regime in Baghdad. All the other states which border Iraq - Iran, Turkey, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Syria - are hostile to Baghdad and there are no

new allies in sight.
The report this week by Rolf Ekeus, the UN official in charge of monitoring the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, says that Iraq is still concealing information and probably some of the arms. This was denounced as untrue by Iraqi officials yesterday. But it underlined how far Iraq is from the lifting of UN sanctions, first imposed in 1990.

There is no doubt that sanctions do serious damage. "An average monthly salary buys just two chickens," said Viktor Wahlroos, deputy co-ordinator of UN relief operations in the country. "A quarter of the chil-dren are suffering from malnutrition. The government ration meets 50 per cent of people's needs and they don't have the money to buy the other 50

last October. On the other hand the Iraqi government ma-chinery is surprisingly efficient. Despite lack of tractors, fer-There is no doubt that the urban poor and the professional middle classes are being badly tiliser, pesticides and seeds.

shops, although it is expensive. Khalid Abdul Munam Rashid, the Agriculture Minister, said that because of the lack of machinery, "we do more things manually, using eight people where we used to use two."

are being expelled. Antique dealers say that some of grand-est houses in Baghdad are empputs the government in a powerful position. It has other hidden strengths which explain ty of furniture, which has been why the embargo has had limsold off to pay for food. An aid official bought two carpets, each worth \$1,500, for \$40 in ited political and economic effect. Sanctions have no effect on transport or power supplies, be-Basra. The nouveaux riche in Baghdad are people who own agricultural land. cause Iraq has limitless supplies of oil and refineries to turn it into fuel. "I can fill the tank of Iraq is still a long way from famine, however. The gov-erument must still have hard my car for less than the equivalent of one US cent," said one driver. Electric power supply in Baghdad is uninterrupted. Food currency accounts abroad," a foreign diplomat said. "If they were really hard-pressed they would have accepted the UN offer of limited sales of oil to meet food needs. They will do that shortages create anger, but not total desperation. Security is too tight for a repeat of the uprisings of 1991. At the same time there is also no sign of Iraq when they get really desperate."
This may paint too favourable a picture of Iraq's

breaking out of five years' po-litical and economic siege. The results of tomorrow's refposition. There are few trucks erendum are not in doubt. on the road from Jordan and only 200 to 300 a day from Many Iraqis believe that invisible numbers on the ballot will Turkey. The food ration was cut allow the government to identify "No" voters. "He could get 99.9 per cent of the vote, so they may have to lower it to 95 per cent for credibility," said one person who intended to vote "Yes".



rom E

ME PANASONIC

WILL PHONE

there is plenty of food in the

Top defector reveals North Korea's plans to attack US troops

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

A high-ranking defector from North Korea yesterday painted an alarming picture of military instability in the isolated Stalinist state, including the government's plans to target American troops in the event of a war with South Korea.

Choe Ju Hwal, 46, a lieutenant-colonel in the North Korean army, defected to the South last month through an unnamed south-east-Asian country. In Seoul yesterday, he described the military's resistance to North Korea's de facto ruler, the "violent, capricious and hysterical" Kim Jong II.

The "Great Leader" Kim II cessor, his son, still has not asweek he made a rare appearance at a military parade marking the anniversary of the North Korean Communist Party but the eulogies in the media still referred to him by his old titles.

The conventional explanation for the delay has been the dire shortages following floods. But Colonel Choe said despite his nominal command of the his elderly mother.

tivating senior officers with gifts of mansions and foreign limousines, "Kim Jong II has has no firm power in the military with which to keep a grip on the ruling hierarchy.

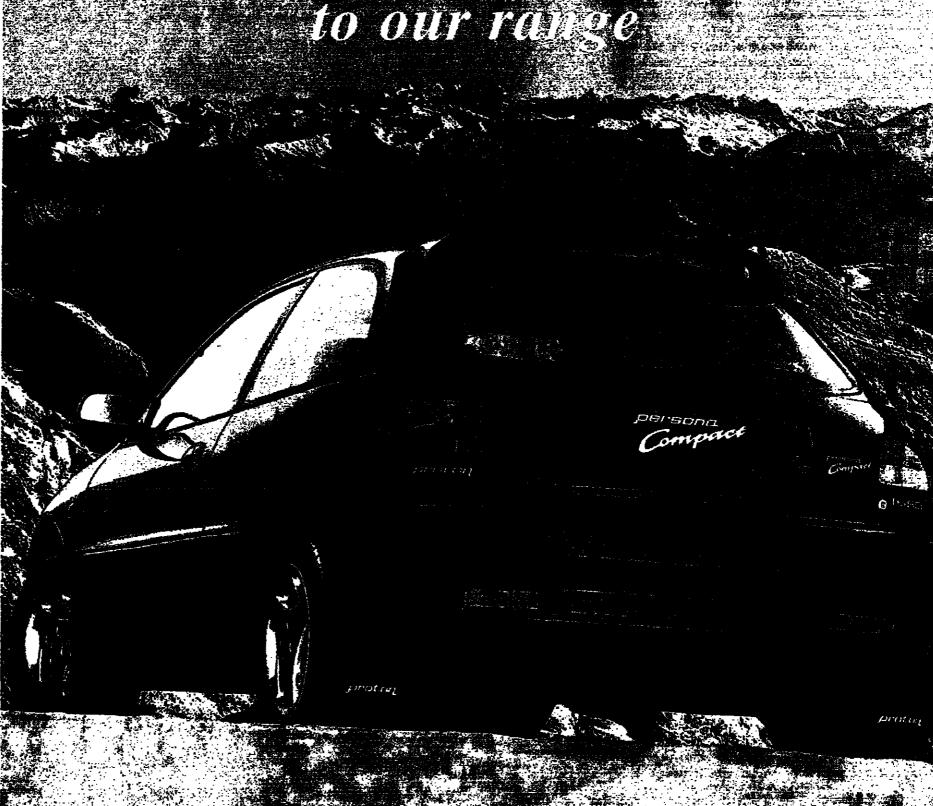
"There was a coup attempt by a group of generals in 1992, bu said. "I think that a lot of senior military officers pretend to be obedient to him, but harbour a secret animosity."

Colonel Choe also set out North Korea's contingency plan, in the event of a future Korean war, to attack the 37,000 US troops stationed in the South. "North Korean military leaders believe that if attacks are first focused on the US troops Sung died in July 1994, but 15 and several thousand US solmonths later his chosen suc- diers are killed or injured, there will be anti-war demonstra sumed the presidency. Last tions by US citizens, leading to a break in the alliance with South Korea," he said.

The two Koreas have not signed a treaty since the armistice ended the Korean War in 1953.

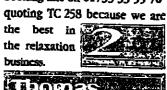
South Korea regularly parades refugees from the North economic situation in the but few defectors have been as North, which is suffering rice high-ranking as Colonel Choe, high-ranking as Colonel Choe, who left behind, to an unknown fate, his wife, three children and

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international

MOSCOW DAYS

US cancels laser weapon that can cause blindness

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

The United States has cancelled a new laser weapon after an international ban on laser devices specifically designed to blind people came into force on Thursday. But a con-ference on inhumane weapons" in Vienna failed to agree on the other main issue - anti-personnel mines - and human rights groups also crit-icised the laser ban for not going far enough.

The Foreign Office hopes the review conference on the 1980 Inhumane Weapons Convention will reconvene in December, after the 35 nations taking part have had time to consider their positions. David Davis, a Foreign Office minister, yesterday said he was disappoint-ed that the talks had been suspended. "We are determined the convention should be strengthened to bring an end to the irresponsible use of anti-persounci landmines," he said.

"But the determined obstruc-tion of a number of countries has made this impossible."

Whereas laser blinding weapons are a new form of warfare, as yet unused, land mines kill an estimated 26,000 people a year. Millions are scattered across Africa and South-east Asia, where they have been favoured by Third World regimes because they are a cheap but highly effective way of denying territory to an opponent. But they remain years after conflicts have ended, and are particularly dangerous to

farmers, children and animals. Western countries, including Britain, want tight controls on manufacturing and export-ing anti-personnel mines and want them to self-destruct after a set period.

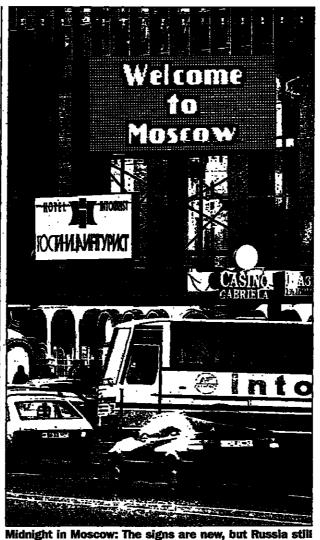
However, a number of coun-tries which still manufacture and use such mines have resisted detailed negotiations. They are understood to include Russia, China, Pakistan, India and Mexico. "Better to suspend it and spend time banging a few heads together," a British diplomatic source said of the conference. One dispute was over verification: Western countries want to be able to carry out inspections. like those specified in other

armaments treaties.

The conference passed a protocol prohibiting the use and transfer of weapons designed to cause permanent blindness to the naked eye. But it permits laser weapons to be used against optical instruments, which could cause blindness indirectly. The US-based Human Rights Watch welcomed the ban but said "the protocol is seriously flawed, because it allows an entire category of possible weapons to escape

possible regulation.

The US immediately announced it was cancelling its new "Laser Countermeasure System", which is primarily aimed at optical instruments and other sensors, but which it accepted was also dangerous to the human eye.



seems stuck in the Soviet era Photograph: Steve Morgan

their two friends, Katya and Anna. A few moments earlier I had slid into the bar, a basement dive round the corner from my apartment, in the hope of numbing the profound shock of having just moved to Moscow after four years in Los Angeles, world capital of consumerism and convenience living. You'll feel fine if you can just have a Bud, said that inner voice.

The four Russians were halfway through their second bot-tle of vodka, having dispensed with a bottle of Martini, when they beckoned me to their table.

I have to admit, I was pleased to see Sergei and Alexei and

"Felix, my friend, sit down," said Sergei, a young furrier, af-ter I'd introduced myself. Philip is not an uncommon name in Russia but my hosts were uninterested in attempts to correct them. "Tell me, Felix, what do you think of Russia? It's a good country? Not like America?"

Even if my Russian had been fluent, and even if Sergei's attention had not wandered to the leather-clad female singer in the corner, there was no way this question could be answered.

How would I have explained that it is possible to miss Californian waiters, the aproned gymnasts who bound from table to table accompanying every

Dingy it is, but at least Russia's still human

calorie-cleansed plate of salad with a story about their real careers in Hollywood.

How would Sergei, a burly man who skins rabbits to be made into hats, have reacted had I pointed out that the three grim barmaids smoking behind the beer taps lacked any apparent desire to cater for their handful of customers.

If there is one aspect of Moscow life that is striking to the newcomer, particularly one from the United States, it is the gap that still exists between Russia and a trob concern Russia and a truly consumer-ori-entated society. All those stories about Russia's growing middle class, supermarkets packed with champagne and lobster, and yuppies cruising around in BMWs, are true. But at street level, where according to the World Bank as much as a third of the population lives below the poverty line, daily life remains closer to

Soviet times than to the West. Given the lack of wealth, it is surprising that Russians often seem to have little appetite to make a profit. It took me two attempts to persuade a dingy restaurant near my apartment that the reason I had walked in the place was to have a meal. (The first time they simply

turned me away). In the grocer's a few blocks away, a sparsely stocked store where the cashiers still use an abacus, staff waved away my request to buy bread and cheese. I was interrupting their lunch, they said. When I then retired to a café, the elderly waitress seemed put out that I had disturbed her viewing of a dubbed television movie starring Elizabeth Taylor. She agreed to bring me a bowl of soup, or more accurately, a bowl of hot water with an egg floating in it.

DAVID USBORNE

Whether she actually noticed is

uncertain but, when Hillary

New York

This paralysis, the by-product of 70 years in which the pursuit of profit was seen as criminal racketeering, has its refreshing side. America's hunger for the dollar can be even more exasperating than Russian gloom.

In LA the bogus vocabulary of the salesman has permeated every walk of life. Shop assistants in California's giant electronic stores now are known as "sales counsellors". When we recently decided to get rid of the rats in the roof of our home, we called a pest control company. No, we couldn't hire a rat catcher, the company said. We would have to go on a "monthly rodent assessment programme" (complete with a monthly fee).

Perhaps the most heartening reminder that Russia has an element which is lacking in the pre-packaged, push-button world came when a colleague invited me to a barbecue at an old wooden dacha outside Moscow, a small slice of paradise that Stalin set aside for top nuclear scientists. As Costya, her husband, prepared the food, it was clear that this gathering could not have taken place in southern California.

A: It was raining (no Californian would have dreamed of being outside in wet weather). B: Costya did not have a barbecue, not even one of those \$3 use-once-and-throw-away kits. He built a real fire, without a

single instant-igniting barbe-

cue briquette. It was with this in mind that I began to answer Sergei's question. Too late. The furrier was on his feet, bursting into folk songs. "Stand up, Felix!" he said, waving his glass of vodka at me. "Let's toast Russia and America." So we drank to them both.

Onassis – is being sued by a for-

mer employee on grounds of sex discrimination. The suit has

been filed on behalf of Jessica

Weigmann, 31, by the American

PHIL REEVES

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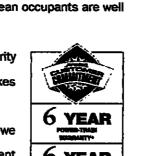
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onditioning, electric windows, electric door mirrors, central

sets Compact apart from other makes. Automatic transmission and an



Clinton attended a lunch given Civil Liberties Union. in her honour at the Metro-It was the Clinton lunch that politan Museum in New York finally lit the fuse in Ms this summer, those fancy wait-Weigmann. No women were asers gliding around her had signed to wait the First Lady's table. "Here's this great something in common: they were all men. women's rights advocate and The all-male service was hardshe is being served by all men," Ms Weigmann complained. ly unusual. In a strange kind of The suit alleges that until recarry-over from the butler and footman culture of the British cently Glorious Foods specifiaristocracy, Manhattan society cally invited prospective clients prefers to have male waiters at to tick options on the standard order forms, "Women OK?" or "Male Waiters Only". A cotheir expensive catered parties. Not everyone is impressed. however. One of the city's most owner of the company, Sean favoured catering companies. Driscoll, was quoted yesterday Glorious Foods - which has a as dismissing the allegations as client list that includes David "bull". He added: "There isn't Rockefeller and, until her any sexual discrimination issue death, Jacqueline Kennedy that goes on at Glorious Foods".

Male waiters feed row

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Paolo Gucci

Paolo Gucci, the former vicepresident and managing director both of Gucci Shops Inc and Gucci Parfums of America, was a key player in the power struggle for control of the Gucci leather goods and fashion empire. In fact, it was Paolo who initiated an extraordinary series of lawsuits that would eventually lead to the downfall of the Guccis, who in the early Nincties were forced to sell the family business to the Arab investment bank Investcorp.

In Italy, the Gucci family was as famous for its highly public quarrels as it was for the leather goods that made its fortune. It was a bitter fight with his own father that inspired Guccio Gucci, the founder of the family firm, born in 1881, to leave Florence for London, where he found work as a waiter at the Savoy Hotel. The elegant suit-cases and trunks of the hotel's rich patrons made a lasting impression on the young Guccio, who upon his return to Florence in 1904 opened a workshop in Via della Bigna producing sad-dles, riding boots and luggage.



Gucci: family disputes

Guccio's son and Paolo's father, Aldo, moved to New York in 1953 and played a leading role in improving the family's fortunes by persuading rich Americans to appreciate the understated elegance of the firm's handbags and, above all, of its loafers. By the end of the Fifties, the Gucci intertwined double-G trademark had become a firm favourite of film stars such as Elizabeth Taylor. Audrey Hepburn and Grace

In 1977, Aldo made Paolo vice-president and managing director of Gucci Shops Inc and of Gucci Parfums of America. But, after a period of expansion in the Seventies, bad times befell the Guccis in the early Eighties. The family disputes first became public when Paolo fell out with his uncle Rodolfo over the American subsidiaries. According to Paoio, all his troubles stemmed from his attempts to expand and modernise the Gucci empire by marketing the name "Gucci" with a licensing operation. He claimed that the family, espe-cially his uncle Rodolfo, who had fired him from the Italian parent company in 1978, wanted to keep the business small, exclusive and old-fashioned. In 1983, Rodolfo died, leaving his shares in the company to his son Maurizio, then 25. Inevitably

More trouble crupted when Paolo decided he wanted to sell his own range of goods under the name "Paolo Gucci" and

this led Maurizio into conflict

with his uncle and his three

filed a lawsuit for compensation from the family business. After Aldo fired him from his jobs with Gucci in America, Paolo turned against his father, and produced documents showing that Aldo had siphoned off profits to offshore companies to avoid paying taxes. In 1986, Aldo Gucci pleaded guilty in a US court to evading \$7m in taxes and was jailed for a year and Ironically, Paolo was landed in jail himself by his own mat-

rimonial misadventures. Last year, he spent five weeks behind bars in New York on contempt charges for failing to pay his es-tranged English-born second wife, Jenny Garwood, almost half a million dollars in back alimony and child support for their daughter, Gemma. Paolo aiready had two other daughters, Elisabetta and Patrizia, from his first wedding with Yvonne Moschetto, who still lives in Florence. Paolo had broken up with Jenny in 1990, after he took up with Penny Armstrong, a stable-girl at the stud farm adjoining his mansion

in Rusper, Sussex, with whom he went on to have two children. Paolo, who in 1987 reportedly

received around \$41m from Investoorp for his share in the family firm, recently sought bankruptcy protection in the United States, citing debts of \$90m. One week before his death, he signed a testructuring plan to pay back his creditors. Paolo's death has left Penny Armstrong and his estranged wife Jenny Garwood to carry on the battle over his money. According to one estimate, his British assets of a mansion and stables in Sussex, and a string of prize thoroughbred Arab horses, are worth some £3m.

Wolfgang Achtme

Paolo Gucci, businessman: born 1931; vice-president and managing director, Gucci Shops Inc and Gucci Parfums of America 1977-82; maried first Yvonne Moschetto (two daughters; mar-riage dissolved), 1977 Jenny Garwood (one daughter; and one son, one daughter by Penty Arm-strong); died London 10 Octo-ber 1995.



Lillian Fuchs

The death of Lillian Fuchs a few weeks before her 92nd birthday is a sad loss to chamber music. Of her many achievements, which included composition, perhaps the most important was that she belonged to that small body of musicians who believe that the viola can compete with the violin as a solo instrument. She owned a fine Gasparo de Salò viola which she handled with ease in spite of her small stature.

She was born in New York into a musical family and her brothers Joseph (violin) and Harry (cello) both became professional musicians with whom she made many appearances.

Her first instrument was the violin, which she studied with Louis Svecenski and Franz Kneisel at the New York Institute of Musical Art (now the

Juilliard School), where she also studied composition with Percy Goetschius. She graduated in 1924, winning numerous prizes. She made a successful New York début as a violinist in 1926 but had already been playing the viola – her real love – for a year as a member of the Perolé String Quartet, with whom she stayed until the mid-1940s.

From this time onwards she earned a distinguished reputation as a viola soloist in the United States and Europe and in 1953 she was a soloist in the Casals Festival at Prades. She also regularly performed chamber music with her brothers and other celebrated musicians. Many composers dedicated works to her, including Jacques

de Menasce, Quincy Porter, Vittorio Rieti and Bohuslav

Martinu, who wrote the beautiful Madrigaly (1947) for her. Although equally talented as a composer, the general public are less aware of this side of her accomplishments. She published 12 Caprices for solo vio-

la (1950), Sonata Pastorale (1956) and a Jota and Caprice Fantastique for violin and piano. She also arranged Mozart's Vi-olin Concerto in G (K216) for viola and provided it with cadenzas (1947) and was the first to perform and record Bach's six cello suites on the viola. She made some unique piano acher brother Joseph. .

companiments for the Paganini caprices for violin, written for Teaching was yet another of Fuchs's achievements. She

taught at the Manhattan School

of Music from 1962, Aspen

Summer Institute in Colorado

from 1964, and the Juilliard School from 1971. Over the vears she was responsible for the training of many musicians now at the top of the profession; she claimed that her very first student on the viola was Isaac Stern, and much later, Pinchas Zukerman. But she said, "I don't take credit for anyone. You can help them, you can feed them, you can educate them, but

what they do themselves is what

finally counts."

Fuchs made many recordings, an outstanding example being the Mozart Sinjonia Concertante (K364) and Duos for Violin and Viola (K423) with her brother Joseph. Recently reissued on CD are two live performances of the Mozart with Casals conducting, and the String Divertimento with her brother and the

In 1932 Fuchs married Ludwig Stein, a businessman and amateur musician. They were together for 60 years until his death in 1992. Their twin daughters, Barbara Mallow (cello) and Carol Amado (violin) have followed in the family footsteps and both enjoy successful professional

Lillian Fuchs was constantly praised for her flawless technique, her rich and expressive tone and her interpretation which revealed a creative and sensitive musical mind.

Lillian Fuchs, violitist, violist, composer and teacher, born New York 18 November 1903; married 1932 Ludwig Stein klied 1992; two daughters); died Englewood, New Jersey 6 October 1995.

Ursula Wyndham

Ursula Wyndham achieved unlikely celebrity late in life by publishing two volumes of autobiography. Their success was the more unexpected because trait of them which the author her books were aristocratic freely admitted to be based on memoirs of an existence even the need for revenge. The root less eventful than is usual in a of the problem for Colonel and woman of her background, but Mrs Wyndham, as Ursula saw the unfashionable genre and the it, was less personal than social. thin story only served to highlight the author's vivid and forceful personality. These were not nostalgic backward glances at a better age but caustic and often witty commentaries on a difficult life by one who thereby triumphed over adverse circumstances, not least her own impulsive nature.

Born into a hugely wealthy aristocratic family, Wyndham might have seemed to outsiders a privileged creature, but, as she later acknowledged, she had few of the qualifications for success in her world, which was narrower than it seemed. Though she took her place in the hunting-field, she was ill suited to the drawing-room and the marriage market. She was never pretty or graceful; her education was neglected, and she suffered until late middle age

Her parents were not sympathetic, and the first volume of her autobiography, Astride the Wall (1988), is a devastating por-She figured as that doubly despised thing, the daughter of a younger son. And although, by a series of freaks, her father eventually inherited the family title, as the fifth Lord Leconfield, and Ursula later gained access to a substantial fortune, both came into their

patrimony too late to enjoy it.

This was not the only frustrating circumstance in her life. She was a woman of strong passions with a craving for the love and companionship denied her in childhood, and her second volume, Laughter and the Love of Friends (1989), is the record of a long affair with an older married man who was clearly puzzled by the strength of her feelings. The book is a richly comic account of their misurderstandings etched by a sharp eye in piquant style, though not always in full consciousness of

its implications. When her lover's wife became ill, for example, Wyndham - an excellent cook - thoughtfully left a steakand-kidney pie on her rival's doorstep as an anonymous gift. It was not well received.

The fundamental unhappiness of her life was assuaged in part by many pleasures and in-terests. During the Second World War she worked in a factory, where for the first time she enjoyed good relationships with ordinary people. This was a revelation. After leaving her parents' home she lived alone in Sussex and bred goats. The activity served a double purpose: being obliged to pasture the animals on verges, she read in the hedgerows while they grazed by the road and thus acquired the education earlier denied her.

Though claiming to despise the conventions of upper-class life, she was fascinated by ge-nealogy and social history. She travelled extensively and wrote several other unpublished books, including a life of Queen Charlotte. She was an expert needlewoman. But, above all, friendship was vitally important to her, especially the friendship of younger people. When her



nephew Lord Egremont gave her an 80th-birthday party at

Petworth, the average age of the guests was well under 50. Her interest in others was fed by the success of her memoirs which brought not only fan letters but also a surprising new ca-

reer as television personality and journalist. For a while she wrote regularly as agony aunt in the Oldie. If she made up the queries herself, that was testimony to her inventiveness and her fondness for giving categorical advice on problems she had meditated for many years. For, as many of her friends

discovered, Ursula Wendham discovered. Ursula wynumam could be a formidable figure. The daughter, friend and mistress of coloniets, it sometimes scened that she would have made a better colonel than any of them. Her tall, spare figure, cause size evidently relished the prospect of baftle.

Generous and forbearing in peacetime, she could be wild and dangerous when roused. With the manners of a county lady she combined the outlook of a bandit chief. Tongue-tied in youth, she was determined to make herself heard in old age, and the lengthy telephone calls her friends learnt to expect ranged from lively debates to fiery harangues.

Úrsula Wyndham's memoirs articulate an authentic voice. crying out often in great pain but always with courage and style. It was an unhappy story she told, but not a sad one.

Peter Washington

Ursula Constance Wyndham writer: born London 20 September 1913; died Petworth, Sussex 9 October 1995.

Harry Baines

Harry Baines was one of Britain's finest realistic figurative draughtsmen. He worked to a discipline, unfashionable for many years, which forged such ents as Eric Kennington, A.K. Lawrence and James Stroudley. Baines brought to his favourite medium, charcoal, an uncommon warmth of handling, especially when recording the people of India. Baines's love affair with the

salts continent began during the Security Would War. He served there was the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1946, being seconded the Continent Seconded Se sult of this Indian stay was his fine portrait of Lai Bahadur Thana, first Indian winner of the Victoria Cross, which

Baines would have liked to stav in India after demobilisation. He was offered a job in an advertising agency, but for family reasons returned to London, joining the Ministry of Information exhibitions, where he met his wife, Pauline Behr, a typographer and book designer. Disliking an office-bound life, Baines soon left to freelance.

He had been well trained for this. Born in Manchester, he had attended junior art school from the age of 14. His father, who worked in insurance, and his mother encouraged their only child and from 1930 to 1934 Baines attended Manchester School of Art under R.A. Daw-

Medal. Baines's drawing master was friendly with the medical school, and art students were able to take part in dissecting, which Baines said helped his knowledge of anatomy. Another formative influence was a show of William Roberts's work. Surviving drawings from this period indicate Roberts's influence, although Baines was to evolve a livelier,

powerful style.
Baines's diploma was in mural painting, and during the next five years he completed murals in the North. Examples at Timperley Church, Cheshire, and Longford Cinema, Manchester, department of the de-of india as director of the de-sign studio. His limit travelled Gallery show "Contemporary widely, helding exhibitions to British Mural Painting", in military beating and beeting sign studio. His timit travelled Gallery show "Contemporary brows in spired alaton in friends widely, helding Exhibitions to and entering studio, not least be-promote the war effort. One reteaching at Bristol Art College before war intervened.

In 1949 Baines and his wife

visited Italy, a Spartan stay in is now in the Imperial War a hill hut that had been used by partisans. A Tate Gallery postwar show of modern French painting had been an eye-opener for Baines, and he now became impressed by the Italian Realists, such as Guttuso. whose work was prominent in the Venice Biennale of 1950. The people and countryside of Italy became a further passion for Baines, who returned from a holiday there only 10 days before he died.

Not surprisingly, Baines's Realism attracted the attention of the critic John Berger, who wrote an introduction to a portfolio of his lithographs, Quarymen, published in 1953. A friend had suggested Baines look at the limestone quarry

son, winning the Heywood workers near Plymouth, who proved an apt subject. Reviewing an exhibition of paintings on Indian themes at the Commonwealth Institute in 1955. Berger said that Baines "communicates what he feels by means of superb draughtsman-ship. The weight of a stone that a woman carries on her head can be seen in her ankle". He praised "an important contribution to the development of English Realism".

Baines's superb drawings. done on leave in the war, of sculptures and pictures in the Ellora and Ajanta caves had made an impressive show at India House in 1946. In 1954 he and his wife travelled India for six months, then in the early 1960s he was there again to record impressions as British engineers built a steelworks in West Bengal. Soon after, he painted murals in the British pavilion at Delhi Industrial Fair, then in 1972, as guest of the Indian Council for Cultural Affairs. Baines began a systematic study of Indian

sculpture. la 1976, with the writer Richard Lannoy. Baines was commissioned for the book The Eve of Love, concentrating on temple sculpture. The drawings were exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, in London. Indian and Italian drawings were featured in Baines's last solo show, at Alpha House Gallery, Sherborne, in 1992.

David Buckman

Frederick Harry Baines, artist: born Manchester 19 June 1910: married 1952 Pauline Behr, died London 8 October 1995.

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

MATTHEWS: In London, on 4 Octo-ber, to Nicola (nec Stade) and Ross, a son, Jacob John Zachary.

Adoptions, Marriages, Denths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversuries, In Memoriana) should be sent in writing to the Guzette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-haur answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (unices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be subsplitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephotoe number. to the Gazette Editor. The Independe

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal today attends the Royal Naval Association Concert and Reunion at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7. The Princess Margaret, President, National So ciety for Prevention of Cruelty to Children today attends the Society's Berishire An totay artents the society Serissime Appeal Ball at West Wycombe Park, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Princess Alexandra, accompanied by Sir Angus Ogilvy, today begins official visits to Botswam and Senegal.

Changing of the Guard TODAL: The Household Cavalry Mount-ed Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. To MORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Goards, 10am; 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards mounts the Battalion Grenadier Custos and Oncen's Guard, at Buckingham Prince,

Birthdays

Boyd, HM Chief Inspector of Con-stabulary for Scotland, 62; Mr Roland Butcher, cricketer, 42; Mr Steve Cram, athlete, 35; Mr Vivian Davies, Keeper of Egyptian Antiq-uities, British Museum, 48; Mr John de Courcy Ling, former MEP and diplomat, 62; Mr Thomas Dolby, key-board player, 37; Mrs Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, Vice-Chancellor, Uni-versity of East Applia, 57; Sir Leslie Roger Taylor, tennis player, 54; Mr Christopher Timothy, actor, 55; Miss Carole Tongne, MEP, 40; Mr Kier-an Tunney, playwright, 73; Mr Alan Williams MP, 65; Mr Derek Wood QC, Principal, St Hugh's College,

TOMORROW: The Duchess of York, 36; Lord Baden-Powell, vicepresident of the Scout Association, 59; Sir George Bishop, former chair-

TODAY: Lord Barnett, former MP, 72; Mr Reginald Bottini, former trade union leader, 79; Mr John Boyd, HM Chief Inspector of Con-

versity of East Anglia, 57; Sir Leslie Fletcher, former chairman, The Rank Organisation, 73; Sir Christopher French, High Court judge, 70; Professor John Griffith, former Chancellor of Manchester University, 77; Air Chief Marshal Sir David Harcourt-Smith, 64; Mr Justin Hay-ward, rock singer, 49; Mr David Hinchliffe MP, 47; Mr James Hodg-son, former vice-chairman, British Telecom, 70; Professor Victor Hoffbrand, haematologist, 60; Mr Joe Hyman, former chairman, John Crowther Group, 74; Mr William Jarvis, racchorse trainer, 35; Sir Richard Luce, Vice-Chancellor, Uni-versity of Buckingham, 59; Mr Roger Moore, actor, 68; Sir Derek Oulton QC, former Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Office, 68; Mme Françoise Pascal, actress, 46; Mr Thomas Prentice, life president, Harrisons and Crosfield, 76; Mr Cliff Richard, singer, 55; Mr John Roques, senior partner and chief executive, Touche Ross & Co, 57; Mr

man, Booker McConnell, 82; Mr Howard Colvin, architectural histo-rian, 76; Professor John K. Galbraith, economist, 87; The Very Rev Eric Heaton, former Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, 75; Sir Julian Hodge, merchant banker, 91; Mr Tito Jackson, singer, 42; Mr Alan Jones, chairman and chief executive, Westland Group, 56; Miss Catherine Lampert, director, Whitechapel Art lery, 49; Dame Anne Mueller, for-Cavendish College, Cambridge, 64: Mr Peter Phillips, founder and musical director, the Tallis Scholars, 42: Mr Mario Puzo, novelist, 75; Proor Charles Rees, organic che 68; Mr George Sava, author and surgeon, 92; Professor Arthur Schlesinger, author and Schweitzer Professer of the Humanities, City University of New York, 78; Baroness Serota, former Ombudsman, 76; Mr David Trimble MP, 51; Sir John Vinelott, High Court judge, 72; Sir Cinistopher Walford, Lord Mayor of London, 60.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Eamon De Valera, statesman, 1882; Katherine Mans field, writer, 1888; Lillian Gish (Lillian Diana de Guiche), actress, 1894. Deaths: Harold, King of England, killed in battle 1066; Errol Flyun, actor, 1959; Bing Crosby, singer, 1977; Leonard Bernstein, conductor and composer, 1990. On this day: Mary. en of Scots was tried, 1586; the trial of Marie Antomette took place, 1793; Oxford University degrees were first conferred on women, 1920. Today is the Feast Day of St Angadriama, St Burchard of Wurzburg, St Callixtus I, pope, St Dominic Lauricatus, St Justus of Lyons, St eccus and St Manechildis.

TOMORROW: Birthe: Virgil (Publics Vergilius Maro), poet, 70 BC; Ak-

bar the Great, Mogul Emperor, 1542; Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, philosopher, 1844; Sir Pelham Greuville Wodehouse, novelist, 1881 Deaths: Mata Hari (Margaretha Geertruida Zelle), executed for es-pionage 1917; Hermann Goering, Nazi leader, committed suicide 1946; Cole Albert Porter, composer and lyricist, 1964. On this day: the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park was closed, 1851; Cologne Cathedral was solemnly opened, 1880; the Come-dy Theatre, London, opened, 1881. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Euthymius the Younger, St Leonard of Vandocovre, St Teresa of Avila and

Lectures TODAY.

National Gallery: Norman Coady, Under the Surface (ii): Ingres, Madame Moitessier, 12pm. British Museum: Delia Pemberton "Ancient Egyptian Painting and Drawing", 1.15pm.

TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien Twohig "Surrealism v Abstraction (ii)"

Dinners

Royal Naval College Greenwich Judge J.S. Sessions, Judge Advocate of the Fleet, was the guest of honour at the Annual Dinner of the Roy-al Navy Barristers held yesterday evening in the Painted Hall at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, Captain D.R. Humphrey, Chief

Naval Judge Advocate, presided.

Headquarters Strike Command Gp-Capt A.C. Montgomery presided at a Dining In Night held yesterday evening in the Officers' Mess, Headarters Strike Command, Royal Air Force High Wycombe, Buck-

The sound case for women cardinals

The Roman Catholic Church in Britain is so smoothly run and so united in outward loyalty and inward indifference to Rome that it is easy to forget the magnitude of the civil war waging almost everywhere else in the Church in the developed world.

Two American religions papers give us taste of it. One is the National Catholic Reporter, for which the late Peter Hebblethwaite was Rome correspondent; the other is the Catholic World Report, a glossy monthly devoted to the cause of tradition. It is difficult to believe they are describing the same church; all that seems to unite them is the bilious tone with which they describe their enemies, each other.

But there are deeper similarities. Both believe that they represent the one true church, and that the tendencies represented by the other will strangle and poison the truth if allowed to flowtish. Both believe that the crucial battleground is over appointments and that sex and authority are intimately connected. These beliefs have come to the forefront of both papers with the affair of the 30 women cardinals.

The Pope started it. In a statement made just before his visit to America, he urged the Church to make use of the gifts of women in leadership positions. Of course, he believes that women can never be priests and that for Catholics even to discuss this possibility is wrong, and he has done his utmost, by argument, decree and appointments policy, to estimate dissent on this issue. Quite right too, the Catholic World Report would say. It is his job to guard the truth. Yet he does obviously believe that women should exercise power in the secular world.

in Rome. The system is not set up for it. utterly indifferent to their clergy and laity."

faith oreason

The Pope wants to see women in positions of leadership. Until 1916 there was no requirement for cardinals to be priests. Why not bring back lay cardinals? asks Andrew Brown.

The last time the issue of women's power was seriously debated there was, I think the autumn of last year, when a Zairean bishop proposed making women cardinals. The tradition that cardinals, who elect the Pope, must be priests was only codified in 1916. There is no insuperable doctrinal argument that says they have to be ordained; and, if they could be lay people once more, some of them might be

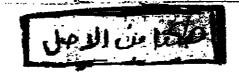
That is the proposal which the National Catholic Reporter has revived. In an editorial in the latest issue, it proposes that the 30 gaps in the college of cardinals at the moment be filled with women, with the aim of having half the college as women by the year 2000. In the same issue appears an article by Fr Andrew Greeley, a priest and sociologist, assessing the worth of the present bench of bishops in the US: "With unrelenting consistency in recent years, the Vatican has appointed .. mean-spirited careerists - inept, in-Lay people generally have hittle power competent, insensitive bureaucrats who are

I would not want by this quote to make the Catholic World Report seem the voice of reason. If anything, it is the easier of the two to parody, if only because its mot-to is obviously "no surrender". The Reporter's proposal for women cardinals was greeted by the CWR as yet another example of deliberate treason.

But there is a real difficulty here. The CWR is right to point out that many promi-nent Catholic intellectuals are disloyal to the teachings of the Church. It is wrong to suppose this problem can be solved by sacking or silencing all dissenters. The teachings of the Church have both a hierarchical and a democratic authority. Catholics believe them true because the Church has pronounced them true, but part of the Church's proclamation of these truths is the fact that Catholics assent to them. This assent cannot in the long run be compelled.

At the moment, it is withheld in crucial areas by most Catholics in the developed world and whether the resulting disagreement is conducted in public, as in America, or in private, as it is for the most part in Britain, the consequences are poisonous. Hypocrisy is not the worst vice. but institutionalised hypocrisy is dangerous for a church that claims to be founded on truth. Yet what else can a church practice when it cannot admit to

uncertainty? I suspect this state of institutionalised. hypocrisy is a powerful reason both for the shortage of vocations and for the fact that the Catholic Church in Britain has been for years losing members faster than the Church of England. Perhaps it will take a woman cardinal to see some way out of



the saturday story

Welcome home, OJ: don't expect a party

A jury acquitted him of murder, but the former sporting hero is finding Americans far from ready to re-embrace him, says Tim Cornwell

allelujah! I'm home!" With these three words, OJ Simpson stepped back through the doors of his Brentwood estate, his home for 17 years. At least that was the version in the Star, the supermarket which had paid a six-figure sum to be there.

"Clutching the worn Bible he had kept by his side in his cramped jail cell," ran the Star's account, "a beaming Simpson walked through the front door of his mansion and announced to pals: 'I'm home, I'm home with my family. I want my kids. I want my life."

Simpson's acquittal of the charge of murdering his wife Nicole and waiter Ronald Goldman is a test of Andy Warhol's adage that in America, fame is a force that obscures every other aspect of a personality, including whatever one was famous for in the first place.

But fame, at least in the immediate aftermath of Simpson's release, has lost out to a sense of small-town outrage. Pay-per-view TV distributors declined to carry Simpson's first interview. Plans for a free session with NBC, in which Simpson would tell his side of the story, fell through this week amid mounting public protest. Other vaunted multi-million dollar deals have failed to materialise.

There is an established tradition in the US of celebrities seeking redemption through confession, from straying televangelists to actor Hugh Grant, who went to take his medicine on late-night television after his encounter with a prostitute. The most successful rehabilitation was probably that of cocaine user Marion Barry, who returned, born again, from jail to be re-elected mayor of Washington

Simpson has begun that process by saying he was wrong to "get physical" with Nicole back in 1989, and offering to meet battered women to "talk about my relation-ship". But already he is finding that, despite his acquittal by jury, the mood of Americans is far from reconciliatory.

This week, a sign went up near Simpson's house, in an expensive, immaculately trimmed and overwhelmingly white section of Los Angeles, It read: "Welcome to the neighbourhood. Home of the Brentwood Butcher."

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At Simpson's Sherwood Country Club, there was a move this week to revoke his membership. OJ was dropped by International Creative Management, the big-shot talent agency, and by former Dallas cast member Charlene Tilton, who vowed to boycott him whenever she

And Hertz cars, in whose ads Simpson had famously rushed through an airport, shrilly denied

"The story is absolutely false and without a shred of foundation," said a spokesman. Ten days after the murders, 66 per cent of Americans believed OJ did it. After his acquittal, the figure climbed to 73 per cent

The Star's story was headlined "OJ's Joyful Homecoming" and delivered, as promised, "dozens of fabulous intimate photos". There was OJ clasping ailing mum Eunice, OJ with sister Carmelita pulling his grey hairs, OJ in a private moment with adult son Jason on the balcony, OJ with best buddy

Al Cowlings loosening his tie. There was OJ with attorney Johnnie Cochran, pointing down at a rug on the floor where the bloody socks were found - or planted to frame him, as Cochran would argue - with OJ joking: "Where are the socks? Where are the

Amid the platitudes was a note out of key. Simpson's first move was to walk into the living room and immediately turn on his three TV sets. He saw his nemesis, LA District Attorney Gil Garcetti, announcing at a post-trial press conference that the investigation was closed.

Again and again, Simpson returned to the television, talking to the set, demanding to know from arriving visitors why police weren't hunting the real killers. Since then, it is reported, he has been watching several TV channels at once. None of them have been

Like Bill Clinton at the height of the Whitewater affair, Simpson has seen others shaping his image, a process he finds deeply frustrating. Convinced of his own innocence, he seems unable to convey that knowledge to a suspicious world. Public approval was always important to him, friends say, from the beginning of his career as football hero, minor actor and corporate glad-hander.

It was symptomatic of his desperation that Simpson first suggested the NBC interview to the network's West Coast president Don Ohlmeyer, an old friend, at the party after the verdict, without taking the advice of his lawyers.

Simpson asked that there should be no advertising breaks during the interview. He even ruled out any participation by his old friend, NBC reporter Bryant Gumbel, who consequently went into a sulk, calling in sick. Instead, it was to be handled by Tom Brokaw, NBC's nightly news anchor, and Katie Couric, a morning show anchor.

But for all the efforts to maintain the appearance of propriety, an estimated 10,000 protest calls jammed NBC switchboards in New York and California. Outside one



even considering taking him back. NBC office, photographers cap- Don't come too close: Simpson wants to tell his version but not at any price

rights protester, Alexandra Wisse, Simpson sympathiser, Kwase Fosu. She held a placard reading: "NBC is guilty of pandering to a

All the networks began juggling their schedules on the basis that the interview would sweep the ratings board on Wednesday night. Rupert Murdoch's Fox TV settled for a second-rate film, Beethoven, and CBS scheduled re-runs of re-runs. The only serious rival was a major league baseball game on ABC. CNN was stuck with an election debate between the nine Republican presidential contenders.

NBC forecast an audience of 92 million people; the interview was to go out on its international cable station to some 60 million homes in Europe. Previous Simpson high points, both the slow-motion car chase before the trial and the verdict at its end, have drawn record

The network approached Marcia Clark, O.I's prosecutor, and asked if she would like to take part in the show, but she declined. Ms Clark now has her own Hollywood agent. So does her black colleague Christopher Darden, marking the descent into the media circus of virtually the only player in the Simpson trial who emerged with some semblance of dignity.

Both Brokaw and Couric have

solid journalistic credentials. But they faced mounting pressure from colleagues and the public to ask only the toughest questions, most of them variations on "when did you stop beating your wife?"
The Boston Globe offered a list

of 10. They ranged from the softpedal "Do you see a special role for yourself in black America?" to Why did you flee with Al Cowlings after agreeing to turn yourself in, and what did you plan to do with the passport and the money?" and the disarmingly blunt: "Why did you beat Nicole?"

Readers of other newspapers proposed challenging Simpson to take a lie detector test or a truth drug. Their suggestions included: 'Where are the leather gloves Nicole bought for you in 1991?" and "Why was your blood at the crime scene?"

Legal experts were not surprised that Simpson's team called the interview off; rather, they were astonished that he had agreed to it in the first place. He faces three civil suits from the relatives of unspecified damages. An hour's interview, however well handled. could have opened up any number of avenues for cross-examination.

Robert Tourtelot, attorney for the family of butchered waiter Ronald Goldman, says not even a to bankrupt Simpson, taking not just current wealth but future

As Brokaw went on air to announce that the interview had Jeff Vinnick/Reuters been cancelled, the NBC machine

For Eurostar and Continental Rail Travel

tured what will be a lasting image swung into reverse, pulling out an of the OJ debate: a white women's episode of SeaQuest for the night and going back to advertisers who in a shouting match with a black had balked at the OJ show. Fox TV stuck with Beethoven.

Simpson then placed a call out of the blue to New York Times television reporter Bill Baker to explain the decision to cancel. Baker had interviewed him for a personality profile years before, and had not covered the murder trial

"My lawyers told me I was being set up." Simpson told Baker. "They felt the interview was going to be tantamount to a grand jury hearing." His attorneys, marshalled by Johnnie Cochran, voted nine-toone against it.

What Baker came away with after their 45-minute chat, he said, was that Simpson 'was a guy obsessed with the way he was portrayed on television... incredibly picayune little things. He can't stop watching... He feels he is been presented in a certain

Simpson was particularly cross about reports he was to marry his girlfriend, model Paula Barbieri, in the Caribbean. "I've spoken to Paula but she has not been to my house. I have not seen her. But I saw that a guy in the Dominican Republic said he had confirmed we were there."

The Bermuda press went mad this week over reports that a visiting 44-year-old Boston lawyer. Mark S Furman, was actually Mark E Fuhrman, the detective in the Simpson case whose racist views became Cochran's strongest suit in the courtroom. Bermuda's immigration minister first confirmed that Fuhrman was on the island. then apologised to Furman for the

Simpson said there was no custody battle in the offing with Nicole's family, as reported, over the fate of the couple's two children, Sydney, nine, and Justin, seven. "We've agreed on the professional help for the kids. There is no conflict," he said.

Some of the criticism levelled at NBC for pandering to Simpson was turned on the New York Times for running the Baker interview. But the newspaper - coincidentally or not - ran a long and sympathetic story the next day on Nicole's emergence as a symbol for battered

Simpson this week hired a new attorney for his civil case - Robert Baker, known as a tough litigator. Johnnie Cochran may not appeal in Santa Monica, the mostly white Goldman and Nicole alleging that—and wealthy area where the case he killed them and claiming will be tried. And in a civil case, only a majority of jurors have to agree on a "preponderance of the evidence" before awarding damages.

As one trial is over, another is only just beginning. In the civil case, scheduled to get under way next April, Simpson can be forced \$150m offer will keep them out of to testify, experts say. But civil court. His declared aim is to seek summonses are not sufficient cause iustice, not cash, and in the process for extradition from many countries; perhaps it is time, say some cynical pundits, for Simpson to find a new life in Mexico, or Switzerland... anywhere the cameras and the lawvers can't reach

Jo Brand's wee

We women can't even go through the menopanse in peace. Yep, the men have muscled in on that, as well. According to the Americans, that is. I'm not looking forward to the menopanse. If I wanted to have not flushes and feel depressed, I'd go to aerobics. And the thought of one's other half snivelling and groaning is enough to make me plan an unfortunate accident for whoever it might be, now. The Americans call the male menopause "the andropause" and have come up with testosterone patches to help the poor lambs through the worst symptoms. These include fatigue, depression, erectile dysfunction and hot flushes. Who were their research subjects? Maybe they used a group of men who had just had a lads' night out down the pub? The symptoms sound uncomfortably familiar to me. Or pertiaps English scientists have the answer. They can save on testosterone patches because they have discovered that testosterone levels rise dramatically when a man's football team wins and descend when it loses. My sympathy goes out to fellow Crystal Palace supporters of the male variety. You must have virtually none of the stuff left.

I attended a conference in Brighton last week. (No, not that one.) The conference was organised by a group called Threshold, which deals with problems faced by women who are mentally ill. The attendance consisted completely of women, with not a man to be seen. I assumed, as many did, that the conference was closed to men. Apparently not. None of them had chosen to attend. Now men, where are you?

I do think there is something to be said for infantile philosophy. A friend of mine is treading warily through the minefield of sexuality with her very little daughter at the moment. Having scotched the evil rumour that men



them in the dead of night and urinating on them, she attempted to answer questions on where the human race came from, to be met by the statement: "I think God made all the ladies and all the men came from the monkeys." Not a bad theory in my

An American Gold Card holder was

recently charged £13m by mistake after a trip to a restaurant. (I normally only get that sort of bill at a burger place on my birthday). Bureaucracy being what it is, it took a lew days to sort the problem out, but it reminded me of an incident when I worked in the Civil Service. This was the most tedious job I have ever had and consisted of paying a group of domestic staff every week and sorting out their sick pay. The boredom was only relieved by trips to the cheap bar at lunch time and the cryptic crossword. The computer staff were obviously getting tanked up as well, because one day I got a very tearful woman on the phone who had received a bill for £17m and said she could never afford it and could she arrange to pay so much off a week. She was so grateful when I said I was sure it was a mistake. I decided to celebrate in the bar with a few drinks, fell asleep on my desk after



Innch, dribbled all over it and was caught by the boss and asked to leave. I'd like to thank that woman for getting me out of the place.

watched one of those late-night

chats on Channel 4 the other night involving men trying to come to grips with the problems of relationships. This week, they'd let women on as well so they could all blah on together and try to come to some sort of conclusion about where we are vis à vis the sex war. The main problem to me seemed to be the apparent inability of anyone to complete a sentence before they were interrupted by someone else. Much of the programme was an ugly cacophony as people tried to shout above each other to get their point across. Some of the participants couldn't even be



Nomen always complain that there's too much football on

shut up either.

bothered to compete so they didn't say anything. For all we know, one of these people had the answer to the meaning of life and we never got to hear it. Perhaps if everyone stopped going on telly to talk about every conceivable problem under the sun, they might actually have an opportunity to have some sex and discover it's alright. The programme did at least demonstrate a sort of sexual equality. The women wouldn't Jokes about policemen selling drugs have long been the staple diet on the London comedy circuit, along with numerous ailusions to people in police custody falling down the stairs. I remember a friend of mine who worked in the Metropolitan police lelling me that humps of car would shrink magically to the size of peas as they made their journey to be exhibited in court. How gratifying for us comics to discover that all our jokes have not been in vain and some policewomen have finally taken up the challenge. Add to that the policeman who faked a car accident to cover up the fact that they'd been racing police cars on a quiet night and soon the police won't have to

bother with the general public – they'll just be arresting each other all television. I'm not one of them, as I like a good watch myself. However, I would like to complain that there is too much football on the news at the moment. If they're not fighting or fixing, footballers are suffering the folly of a minority of lumpen sado-fascists with their pathetic flags, off to make trouble in Europe. I know Desmond Morris said football was tribal, so when are the police going to herd all the ones that want a ruck into an empty field, let them get on with it and just leave the rest of us in peace?



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Major to Blair: lead, follow, or get out of the way

Since Tony Blair was elected Labour leader just over a year ago, he has commanded the political stage with a rare authority. Displaying immense political flexibility and ingenuity, he has wowed the nation. For 12 months, British politics has been about Tony Blair. The Tories have been no match: split on Europe, they have displayed all the symptoms of governmental fatigue. John Major has looked bedraggled, bemused and lacking the qualities needed to subdue and lead his fractious colleagues. Finally, in his brave decision to stand for re-election, he sought a fresh start and a measure of

But this week's conference could hardly have started less well. Fresh from a magnificent week in Brighton, Mr Blair revealed his latest recruit: Alan Howarth, one of the more intelligent Tory MPs. Given all this, it is hardly surprising that the Tory conference was for the most part a subdued affair. The party feels old, bruised and battered. Off-the-record conversations reveal a manifest sense of impending electoral doom. This year, for the first time for well over a decade, the conference for the smart influence-peddlar to be seen at was Labour's.

John Major thus faced a mountain yesterday. In country and party alike, the prevailing view is that only a miracle can save the Tories at the next election. By the time he sat down 80 minutes later, he had given reasonable grounds for doubting the new common sense.

Already during the week, the Tories had displayed some symptoms of recovery. The divisions on Europe have grown less acute, partly

because the prospects for a single currency are receding on the continent. There was also clear evidence that Michael Portillo, rather in clear evidence that Michael Portillo, rather in the way of Tony Benn in the early Eighties, has gone a speech too far. His crude jingoism and dishonest anti-Europeanism has alienated a sec-tion of those who previously supported him. In his conference speech, Mr Blair sought to convince that Labour knows how to modernise Britain. Mr Major had a similar task. Have the

Conservatives got anything more to offer the country than memories of the Eighties and longevity in office? Mr Major's orated performance paled in comparison with that of the Labour leader, but in content, it did not. On this evidence, the Tories not only have a case - they have a more coherent idea of their mission for the Nineties than Labour.

The core vision is that Britain is the enterprise centre of Europe. This has two aspects. First, it recognises that Britain is necessarily and beneficially part of Europe. There was the mandatory attack on federalism, but Mr Major spent most of his time seeking to persuade his audience of the need to understand Europe rather than dismiss it. The emphasis was distinctly pro-European. Second, it recognises that Britain's interests are not coterminous with or exhausted by its relationship with Europe. Britain exists not only in a European context, but also a global one - the yardstick is not only German competitiveness but East Asian and North American. The Tories are surely right here, and what follows is a powerful and coherent argument: deregulation, opposition to the



social chapter, low taxes and public spending, making Britain competitive and a hospitable home for a volume of inward investment which will drive out unemployment and allow us to afford an effective welfare system.

Of course, the reality is that in office, the Tories have been unable to deliver on either taxation or public spending. A party in power for 16 years will be judged more by its record than its reasoning. None the less, the vision is more convincing than Labour's. Mr Blair speaks with compelling passion of a kinder society and proposes an education drive to raise skills and employability, along with government determination to broker the construction of the information superhighway. Mr Major's vision is more globally aware, more embedded in the history and experience of the Eighties, and more respectful of the centrality of the market and competition.

In his speech, Mr Major combined this core vision with a powerful exposition of Tory val-ues and philosophy. The battle lines are thus becoming clearer. This was an altogether more intellectually confident argument: there were no crude, unconvincing sideswipes against Mr Blair, but a clear delineation of the differences. The Tories, by this speech, are no longer mes-merised by Mr Blair but are beginning to find

Patches of clear blue water start to appear. Labour believes more government is part of the solution, the Tories that it is part of the problem. While the Tories advocate choice, Labour appears to restrict it: an example is the assisted places scheme which Labour wants to abolish and the Tories will now double. The Conservatives favour the Union, Labour is committed to devolution. Mr Major ardently desires the end of whole categories of taxation, such as that on inheritance; Mr Blair won't be called a taxraiser, but his tone is less sure. Mr Major approves Michael Howard's steel toe-capped approach to crime. Mr Blair may be stranded in his sneakers.

Of course, a conference speech does not make a successful election campaign, nor does a plausible vision of the future mean that it will inform the real actions of a government. But Mr Major has made a serious effort at turning the tide. It is possible at least now to see a story the Conservatives can tell the voters: if you want to vote conservative, vote for the Conservatives, not the pretenders.

Mr Major lacks Mr Blair's charisma, but the content of this speech requires Mr Blair to react. Will he emphasise further his conservatism and his sobriety, or will he risk more radicalism?

Labour has now been reminded that whatever Mr Major's shortcomings as a leader, he has qualities. He is authentic, honourable and decent. He lays bare "honourable scars of battle" to contrast with the inexperience of his opponent. At the end of the day, he is more representative of the British people than the public school- and Oxford-educated former barrister who leads the Labour Party. Come the next election, this could yet count. It is well to remember that Blair versus Major is light years away from Wilson versus Home in 1964.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Obstacles to European free trade agreement with the US | Good value at opera houses

From Mr Michael Johnson Sir: Further liberalisation of trade between the European Union and North America, ultimately perhaps with some form of free trade area, has a lot to commend it economically and politically.

reports ("Prodigal's return disguises lack of any new thinking", 11 October) that the Foreign Secretary or his supporters presented this proposal in Blackpool as "a reverse gear for European integration". If a new transatlantic trade agreement is seen as an alternative to further integration in the sons, for a disappointing degree EU, that idea is a dangerous delusion for five reasons:

1. Transatlantic trade liberalisation, even a full FTA, would be restricted to the economic field, where EU internal the domestic lobbies on these policy is already largely integrated. It could not in any way bilateral agreement with be a counter to the pressures Europe, the matching benefits in next year's intergovern- would have to be huge. Amerintegration, which will be dards from a bilateral agreemainly in the defence, political and social fields.

2. The US would not discuss full-scale trade liberalisation with the EU unless it covered such areas as access to the European audiovisual market, telecoms and above all agriculture. France and some other member states would object strenuously. On the (unlikely) hypothesis that France did agree to early less comprehensively dealt with

these areas, it would exact a massive price in other areas of

EU policy.
3. It is doubtful how far the US wants to go in this direction anyway. America would have to make important concessions However Andrew Marr on, eg, banking rights and its long-standing restrictions on coastal shipping. There seems no conspicuous enthusiasm among American politicians for a transatlantic FTA. In the multilateral negotiations which led to the establishment of the World Trade Organisation the US settled, for domestic reaof reform of tariffs and agricultural policy, and stood aside from the recent WTO agreement on financial services.

> 4. If the US were to take on issues for the purposes of a ment than from one in the WTO framework. The obvious precedent is the Nafta agreement of 1993 with Canada and Mexico. Apart from tariffs, standards, etc, Nafta imposes far-reaching obligations in areas such as investment, services, government procurement, intellectual property and travel restrictions, which are much

transatlantic liberalisation in in the WTO. There would be little advantage for the US in negotiating with Europe if it did not get real bilateral concessions in these matters.

5. Not only would the EU (including Britain) have to bite on some unwelcome negotiating bullets: in some of these sensitive subjects the European Commission, according to opinion 1/94 of the Court of Justice, does not have exclusive negotiating rights. If there were to be a serious transatlantic negotiation for real liberalisation and if Europe were adequately to protect its legitimate interests in that process, then Europe would have to negotiate as one for an outcome based on single agreed standards. The perverse result (from the Tory party's point of view) would be an unavoidable increase in the EU's central negotiating powers.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL JOHNSON 11 October

From Mr Ernest Wistrich Sir: The Foreign Secretary's championship of a North Atlantic free trade area at the Conservative Party conference, against the background of opposition to any further integration within the European Union, is doomed to failure.

The Conservative govern-ment tried this before in 1958 11 October

by urging the EEC to negotiate a free trade area with the newly formed Efta as an alternative to further European integration. This was rejected by the EEC then as a device to destroy the EEC's commitment to "an ever closer union of the European

people", a phrase used in the Rome treaty to explain the objective of the EEC to proceed ultimately to full political and economic union. When Britain failed in that attempt, we decided to join the EEC and were ultimately admitted on the clear understanding that we accepted its political objectives.

The same commitment to ever closer union appears in the preamble of the Maastricht treaty to which Britain is a signatory. If we now refuse to go along with our partners towards political as well as economic union, we are certainly unlikely to persuade them to abandon it for the sake of a wider free

make a clear and honest choice. Either we carry out our commitment to further integration, implicit in the Maastricht treaty, or we decide to let the others go ahead without us by leaving the union and seeking a free trade association with it instead. Yours faithfully,

ERNEST WISTRICH London, NW3

From Mr Jeremy Isaacs and £25
Sir: Raymond Gubbay's uncharacteristically intemperate attack money. on the Royal Opera House is totally unjustified ("Royal Opera House 'elitist and wasteful' ", 11 October). His allegations are without foundation.

Our stage practice has been and is the subject of continuing critical review and improvement. Our productivity is extremely high and our costs, as every other international opera house bears witness, extremely low. And opera lovers, from upper slips to orchestra stalls, come to

Covent Garden because they enjoy themselves.
I wish Mr Gubbay well at the
Royal Albert Hall, where the Royal Opera gave Ballo in Maschera last season. But he need not publicise his wares by irresponsibly denigrating others. Yours faithfully,

JEREMY ISAACS General Director London, WC2 11 October

the British Council.

Yours faithfully,

Consul General

Embassy of Peru

London, SW1

GEORGE NICHOLSON

From Mr John Nickson Sir. It is rich of Raymond Gubbay and Patrick Deuchar to accuse the English National Opera of being "elitist and icy" (report, 11 October). They are offering 20,000 people the chance to see a semi-staged La Bohème at the Albert Hall for up to £37. Nearly 45,000 people are packing the Coliseum to see Jonathan Miller's fully staged Carmen. Sixty per cent of them are paying between £5

and £25 to see the genuine arti-cle and enjoy real value for

Moreover, ENO's loyal audi-

ence has given almost £1m in individual donations in the past year. These facts speak volumes Yours faithfully, JOHN NICKSON Director of Public Affairs

English National Opera London, WC2

From Mr Philip Parr Sir. Raymond Gubbay and Patrick Deuchar have certainly opened up a can of worms in attacking London's two large-scale opera houses for their elitism, icy atmosphere and exor-

But are productions of classic masterpieces in the Albert Hall a long-term solution? From the very first, Spitalfields Market Opera, London's new chamber opera house, has confronted the issues of cost and accessibility. Our opera February 1996, has a total con-

methods of working mean an average ticket price of only £12. Our doors are open to a new, enthusiastic audience who have joined with opera lovers to support the first opera house in London to discard the tags of elitism and expense. Yours faithfully, PHILIP PARK Artistic Director

Spitalfields Market Onera

struction cost of £500,000. Care-

ful management of staff and

Out-of-date picture of Peru

From Mr George Nicholson Sir: I am writing to you con-cerning Virginia Ironside's From Ms Eleanor Harris "Dilemmas" in Section Two (5 October) which unfortunately misleads readers into believing that Peru is "a country fraught with danger".

I would like to inform Vir-

not be understood. Perhaps, with the introduc-tion of Gillian Shephard's that an estimated 500,000 foreign people will visit Peru this year. Last year alone, according to the British consulate in Lima, Peru hosted an estimated 1,500 British visitors, among them 120 students. Apart from occasional minor problems such as lost property and thefts - comlish language. mon to all major cities - none has reported any of the prob-

Languages change con-stantly. All languages stem from a basic structure which should not be forgotten, but they also move with the times. If teachers had more time to teach smaller classes then we could all learn proper grammar and still be able to enjoy the fun of gaining knowledge of the vast intricacies of the Yours faithfully,

Avoidance tactics

ALRONOVITCI-Dress 'em all

Take a close look at the photograph above this column and you will see a striking resemblance between me and the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo. Remove my glasses and braces and what have you got? A fine English fighting man, that's what. And the same is true of Michael. Obliterate the quiff and he possesses the rubbery good looks of an Action Man that a careless child has left too close to the fire. You can imagine boys having hours of good clean fun dressing him in vari-

clear in his splendid speech this days of rickets and polio, there week, he feels passionately about this nation and its soldiers. We both do - it is bred in the bone. Down the centuries, Aaronovitches and Portillos have fought side by side in this country's historic wars. Our forefathers pulled the yew together at Crecy, so that Aquitaine might be free. They stood shoulder to shoulder at Rorke's Drift. The lament of an Aaronovitch's mouth-organ and a Portillo's squeeze-box drifted over the trenches of Flanders on

And don't think that we would not also have served, had we been so honoured. Only Michael's lumbago (and his commitments as a consultant to the oil industry) kept him out of the Falklands affair. A small piece of floating cartilage, sustained in Balliol College's third XI's 9-0 drubbing at the hands of mighty St Peter's, destroyed my military ambitions. Otherwise, an Aaronovitch and a Portillo would have stood sideby-side at the bar of the Upland Goose in 1982, drinking a toast

Christmas Day 1917.

to victory. Little wonder that Michael should have attacked the possible future plans of some European (I never quite caught the name) to take over our army. Unmartial races, lacking our discipline and enlightened generalship (such as the French and Germans) cannot be given a veto over our boys. Otherwise, as Mikey says, we will end up not fighting any wars; "British soldiers want to fight

for Britain, not for Brussels," he rightly declared. How disappointing then, that

at the end of a triumphant week, one big, black cloud should appear on the clear blue Portillo skyline. It has come to light that, despite our unparalleled prowess in things military, nobody in Britain actually wants to fight for anybody. Well, nobody suitable anyway. The infantry are 1,200 chaps short. with 250 vacancies in the Paras alone. The defence correspondent of the BBC (who sounds ous uniforms and undressing like a chain-smoker and a seriously waisty one to boot), told Nor is this resemblance listeners that the problem was ocidental. As Michael made "today's unfit youth". In the was no shortage of strapping but the NHS and McDonald's have weakened the stock.

The MoD answer is to recruit Gurkhas to fill the gaps. These plucky little fellows with their 12-inch weapons certainly appeal to everyone who loves soldiers. But are they the solution? I should have thought that they were too light to be Paras - it would take them that much longer to float to earth. By the time they arrived, the battle would be over, leaving them wandering about looking for something to sink their kukris into.

But the main problem is this. If Britons will not fight for Brussels, why are we so optimistic that Nepalese tribesmen fresh from milking yaks on the Roof of the World will sacrifice all in defence of Sutton Coldfield?

I hesitate to give advice to the exalted Mr P, but does not the answer lie closer to home? If only the Defence Ministry and the Home Office could work together, they could easily come up with a plan for converting boot camps for young offenders into proper training centres for the army.

It was, after all, criminals in uniform that made this country great - on land and on the high seas. They fought under Admirals Nelson and Portillo at Trafalgar, for Wellington and Sir D'Arcy Aaronovitch at Talavera and Badajoz. Imagine what they could do for Michael Howard and Michael Portillo today!

blood service

A more efficient

From Mr John Adey

Sir: Your article "Blood service crisis as staff exodus bites" (9 October) contains several inaccuracies. We are not proposing to close any blood centres. All existing centres would remain open but the processing and testing of blood donations, currently conducted in all 15 centres, will be consolidated in 10.

The proposals for reorganis-ing the service came not from independent consultants but from working groups of blood service staff. Outside consultants were used to analyse data. . The aim of the proposals is not "to trim £10m from the annual budget" but to produce a blood service that is even more safe, reliable and efficient.

Your claims about staff losses imply that centres are understaffed or contain inappropriately qualified personnel. This is not the case and the blood service continues to maintain its usual high standard.

Finally the NHS is not making money out of blood donors. The amount of blood collected is determined by the needs of hospitals to provide transfusions. The plasma from blood donations can also be used to manufacture blood products such as Factor VIII and albumin for use in the treatment of patients. If a surplus of any blood product remains after satisfying NHS demand then it may be offered for sale abroad. The receipts from such sales come back into the NHS and offset the cost to the taxpayer of manufacturing the product. Donors have always indicated that the sale abroad of any surplus is preferable to the alternative, which is to burn it. Yours sincerely, JOHN ADEY

Chief Executive

National Blood Service

Extra work time remains hidden

From Mr John Monks Sir: Paul Wallace's article ("Bigger rises for better-off widen the earnings gap," 29 September) reports from the New Earnings Survey on hours worked by

non-manual workers, including those in professional and managerial jobs. The NES is based on employers' reports of contracted hours, including paid overtime. This captures most of the excessive hours worked by blue-collar workers. However the survey severely underesti mates the hours many nonmanual workers work.

This is because many nonmanuals - especially those in managerial and professional jobs - do not get paid overtime but find it impossible to get the job done within their contracted hours. The Central Statistical

Office's Labour Force Survey, which asks individuals how many hours they work, found in spring 1994 that 34 per cent of full-time non-manual employees reported working 45 hours or more a week. The April 1994 New Earnings Survey showed that employers reported only 5 per cent worked these very long hours. The difference is accounted for by people working beyond their contracted

hours without extra pay.

These trends can only widen further the gap between the employment conditions of most UK workers and workers in the rest of Europe. Yours sincerely. JOHN MONKS

General Secretary, TUC London, WCI

Better way to use Disney cash

From Mr Hilary Kilborn Sir: Maybe I am in a minority, but I am disgusted by the news that the £9,000 donated to St George's church in Gravesend by Disney ("Disney fans follow the trail of Pocahontas legend to Kent", 11 October) is to be used to floodlight the church and Pocahontas's statue.

Heritage costs

From Mr George J. Levy Sir: Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, is to be congratulated for robustly opposing the Treasury's suggestion, con-tained in a leaked letter, that National Lottery funds should be used to relieve the Government of its financial obligation to the arts (report, 11 October). At the Conservative Party

conference Mrs Bottomley

also made the welcome an-

nouncement that by building

on the success of the National

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(Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

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Lottery she wanted "every schoolchild to have the opportunity to share our splendid artistic heritage".

Geraint Lewis

Why should any church be

floodlit? Why spend this money

on something that will be an

ongoing maintenance burden on church funds as well as a

continuous drain on precious

energy resources?
Why not spend the money to

forward the cause of racial equality and harmony or in

some similarly useful area?

Yours sincerely,

London, SE12

HILARY KILBORN

But this very important initiative for "young people" might well be in danger if inadequate core funding, by the Treasury, necessitates continuing staff cuts and room closures in museums, where these heritage objects are normally displayed. Yours faithfully, GEORGE J. LEVY

English as the PC speaks it

London E1

Sir: Who needs grammar lessons in this day and age ("Let the children sing and squawk", 12 October) when we have spell, thesaurus and grammar checks on our PCs? It is just a shame that they are all in American and that the ginia Ironside, "horrified" Chris-tine and Dominique Young grammatical suggestions can-

read out loud in your best Queen's English" exam, we will see the introduction of speech CD-Roms we can use to prac-tise face exercises on how to get the best drawl while we reorganise the teaching of the Englems one would fear after reading today's "Dilemmas", neither to the British consulate nor to

As well-informed readers have realised, the image portrayed does not match presentday Peru at all. Government policies and drastic legislation passed in Peru since 1990 have dramatically curbed terrorism, English language. drug trafficking and crime. Consequently, the number of foreign ELEANOR HARRIS Dorking, visitors has increased in comparison with 1994 and various Surrev projects recruiting young for-11 October eigners are being implemented

> From Mr Charles Oglethorpe Sir: It is clear to me that Alan Howarth MP resigned after the Labour conference and before the Conservative conference in order to avoid both. Yours faithfully, CHARLES OGLETHORPE Woking, Surrey 12 October

QUOTE UNQUOTE

I do not believe that the threat of longer and longer periods of imprisonment across the board will deter habitual criminals. What deters them is the likelihood of being caught, which at the moment is small - Lord Chief Justice Taylor, attacking a Tory conference speech by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard

The last of the gentleman politicians - Sir David Steel on the passing of Lord Home

The whole country is yearning for a public school prime minister who knows how to hold his knife and fork properly -Anberon Waugh on Tony Blair

She is obviously the Quentin Tarantino of the middle classes -Charles Denton, BBC head of drama, on the spate of June

Bin, bin, bin. All those demands for funds to put deserving people through drama, law or art school, bin. All those befuddled requests to explain what fuck-me shoes are, bin. All those 20-page hand-written screeds explaining the meaning of life, bin. All those reproaches for things I didn't say, bin. glorious bin. All those demands for my favourite poem, recipe. book, colour, into my big new shiny black garbage bin ... Calloo callay! - Germaine Greer gives up answering letters

Gloves on for Honest John, the great survivor

The Prime Minister's speech showed a self-confident man who could still pull off the awesome task of regaining the nation's trust

It ain't over. Those sleek magnates who have decided that Labour must inevitably form the next government would be well advised to make a few friendly calls on Tory ministers, just in case. John Major's speech was not, contrary to the common view, the best he has ever given. But it laid out with vital clarity the scares and hopes that will dominate politics until the election. A fight is on.

Until he rose, this had been an inco-herent conference. There was swagger and belligerence enough, but no real sense that the Tories believed their own propaganda. Ministers have been jousting for the post-Major succession, sending conflicting messages as a result. In private, they often seemed flat. Bright Tories on left and right are agonising about how to reshape the party in opposition. The Alan Howarth defection and reaction to Michael Portillo's speech sent just the

The Prime Minister has not wiped out these miseries, but he reminded all of us what a fighter he is; there was not the slightest quiver of defeatism or self-doubt If you closed your eyes and took a deep



Columnist of the Year

breath you could almost believe him when he talked of a fifth election victory. He is going to use scare-tactics against Labour, but he has some quite scary scares. More than that, though, he painted a picture of a Conservative future which was com-pelling enough to be treated seriously. However you look at it, that was an hour

And he enjoyed spending it. For he seems what he is, a man who has finally throttled his private demons. For most of his premiership, he has been haunted by the danger of the Conservative Party breaking into two over Europe. This looks

preparers of putsch. John Redwood, on the sidelines, and Michael Portillo, on the plat-form, seemed much less threatening figures than a year ago. Major's self-confidence was reflected in his subtle but unmistakeable rebukes to Portillo for the tone of his speech; the Government must advance its case "firmly and courteously" and try to understand the thinking of continental

He has defeated the men of the right, even if the ideas of the right continue to spread. Even then, Major's anti-federalist but pro-European message was surer and straighter than ever before. He thinks he is winning those arguments.

And he is.

Feeling more comfortable in his shoes enabled him to try to counter Alan Howarth's attack on the brutishness of modern Toryism and answer Labour's saucy claim to have inherited the mantle of One Nationism. He did it not merely by asserting the truisms of Iain Macleod's brand of socially concerned Toryism but by

less likely now than at any time since the heyday of Thatcherism.

Just as important, he has confronted the light of his father's business struggles and reminded us that "I know what it's like when the money for the week runs out by

> This matters because during modern general elections, politics is almost reduced to personality. The Tories want the next one to curl round the contrast between a plain, unrhetorical, self-made English commoner, the People's John, and a comfortable, slick, upper-class opponent, Islington Anthony. To pit classless Toryism against snooty, corporatist new Labour is a trick almost as cheeky as Labour's embrace of big business. It reverses the moral choice we expect to make. It's another example of our disorientating

wise to feel uneasy.

There are limits, of course, to the honesty of Honest John. All politicians promise to tell the plain truth; then promptly forget to do so; yesterday's speech was no exception. The Prime Minister promised to drive spending and taxes down, but then ran through a new list of spending com-

Nineties politics. But Labour would be

mitments on policing and education. Hard choices remain, for conference purposes, of the Scottish parliamentary proposals as entirely abstract choices.

On tax, the promise of cuts was there, as it had been in Kenneth Clarke's comeon speech the day before. But look at his priorities; it is hard to understand how One Nation classlessness fits with making the abolition of inheritance tax a top priority.

On education, he lauded choice and excellence for everybody. But until he is ready to allow considerable numbers of surplus places in schools, most children will have little or no choice. Doubling the assisted places scheme was a shrewd way of opening a bigger gap with Labour. But the more children who get out of comprehensive schools, the worse those schools will be. He may regard it as a price worth paying; but to pretend that there is no social price was not an example of the plain truth-telling Major had advertised a few minutes earlier.

On Scotland, the equation of Labour proposals to allow tax bands to vary into the unequivocal statement that Scottish families would pay £6 extra a week was typ-

the result of Labour gutlessness, sweeping to one side the constant preferences of most people there for decades. On the constitution generally the confidence of the constant preferences of the constant preferences of the constant proposed th stitution generally there was a dismal fail-ure of the Tory imagination for which the party will one day pay heavily. So across some of the key policies there

are examples of the evasions and "doublethink' for which Major criticised Tony Blair. Philosophically, he is no more coherent than the Labour leader; like all politicians he wants low taxes and high spend-

ing, talks tough, then prevaricates.

The odd thing, though, is that his fudges and inconsistencies don't make him seem a cynical or silly man. He appears consistent, the same all the way through, a politician who believes in him-self – even if at times he has been the last person in the country who does. Because of that, it isn't quite impossible that Major will persuade people to trust him again. He is the great survivor of modern politics. His task is still awesome, but after yesterday, anyone who writes him off is a

The quintessential English gentleman

PROFILE: Trevor McDonald Our top newsreader is a throwback to another age, says Peter Popham

The black man with the Scottish name who A is more English than the English has had an interesting week. Instead of merely reading the news, Trevor McDonald has been mak-

ing it.

First, on Sunday, came the diabolical proposal to elbow McDonald's programme, News At Ten, off its venerable 10 o'clock plinth and shove it 15 minutes deeper into the night to make room for an extended bout with Cracker, Robbie Coltrane's charismatic psy-chologist. Amid a great squawking of public concern, the Independent Television Commission threatened a large fine, whereupon the idea was withdrawn.

On Wednesday, before the dust had settled, up popped Mrs Shephard at Blackpool to nnounce the latest Tory attempt to turn back the cultural clock. This one involved appointing a steering group to head a "Campaign for the Better Use of the English Language". McDonald was to head a committee of "bright, energetic people" from business, trade unions, sport and journalism, with an ini-

tial budget of £250,000. If the first announcement was an uncalledfor slight, the second was recognition that after three years as the solitary anchorman of ITN's most important programme, and about

He plays that old newcaster's role televisual balm

the same span as the most popular newsreader in Britain, McDonald has become a force in

the land. But a force for what, exactly?

for the nation's soul

A force for niceness is the obvious but inadequate reply: McDonald has a reputation for being pleasant which rivals Gary Lineker's. Never booked, never sent off, his last recorded mistake was when he said the hostage John McCarthy had been brought home, not by the RAF but the RAC. Someone like Jeremy Paxman splits people into those who love him and those who hate him. Trevor McDonald does the opposite: he positively binds people together. He plays that old newcaster's role, the embodiment of reassurance, healer of wounds, televisual balm for the nation's soul. With his square specs, short-pile rug of receding grey hair and slow granite smile, he makes it all better, no matter how dreadful the news he has had to pronounce. Nobody since Richard Baker has filled the role with

As much the most prominent black person in the media, McDonald can be seen as a harbinger of the future, when blacks will be represented in television and print in rough pro-portion to their presence in the population. But a more gloomy view is that he is more cor-rectly seen as a figure from the past – the man from the colonies who relates to Britain as the mother country with a sort of uncomplicated devotion simply not possible for black people

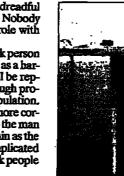
dark Caribbean evenings reading Dickens, Thackeray, Hazlitt ... Naipanl said something about Trinidadians being people without his-tory, and as a result you began to admire the history of others. You fall back on Trafalgar, and so on. One is drawn includably to the metropolitan centre."

and back to his books.

While still a child, McDonald fell under the spell of the BBC World Service, and after a versity of the West Indies and a stint on Trinidad's radio and television, he came to London in 1970 and joined the BBC. He and established the reputation as a convivial, clever, non-threatening person that has car-

ried him along since.

From the BBC, he joined ITN. A journal-



He was born 55 years ago in Trinidad, a small island set apart from the rest of the West Indies geographically, and with a long roll call of distinguished Anglophiles to its name, including VS Naipaul, CLR James and Sir Learie Constantine. "It was a backwater of the empire," McDonald says, "but with a cos-mopolitanism that would do credit to New York; people there were always looking for a wider field abroad. I remember sitting in the

His father worked in the island's oil refinery and raised pigs. He cherished vast ambitions for his four children, of whom McDonald was the eldest. He bought engineering manuals home from work and made his son read them instead of comics; on balmy Sundays, he would drag him off the cricket field

degree in international politics at the Unistayed with the World Service for three years, yed cricket for their team, the Bushmen

ist who remembers him when he was ITN's diplomatic correspondent in Brussels points out that television frontmen come in two types: those who mug up as little as possible for their on-camera spots, and those who insist on learning everything they can about a story and winnowing it down to the essentials. McDonald, he says, was emphatically one of the latter. He subsequently filed reports for ITN from around the world - high points



Mr Feelgood: his last recorded error was saying the hostage John McCarthy had been brought home by the RAC

included the fall of the Berlin Wall, the release of Nelson Mandela (he got the first interview) and, most famously, a half-hour exclusive, after the invasion of Kuwait, with Saddam Hussein.

The solidity and breadth of his journalistic career means it is hard to imagine McDon-ald going down the Martyn Lewis road, demanding more positive news coverage and writing soppy books about animals in the news. Staring into a camera, reading from an autocne and occasionally swivelling one's head pensively to the left may look like a dumb way to earn a living, but his years out in the field have left McDonald with a good understanding of the resonance of the reports he

musters. This makes it all the sadder that he

has failed to prevent News At Ten being taken

downmarket, with a rising proportion of trivial, sensational and voyeuristic reports.

This failure brings us back to the initial commundrum - McDonald is a force in the country, but for what? A large part of his appeal lies in the fact that, like Richard Baker. be exudes uncomplicated self-satisfaction eminently clubbable, quintessentially suburban, born to commute, to stand rounds in the saloon bar, to hail colleagues as "dear boy" and complain when tired of feeling "absolutely buggered". He has achieved the miracle that liberal people in the Fifties and Sixties hoped would become commonplace in a multi-racial Britain - the colour of his skin has become irrelevant. But in the middle of the Nineties, does that make him a beacon for the future - or a relic of the past?

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(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Who is Michael Howard really frightening?

Judges make mistakes, but it is no answer to hand sentencing to politicians, warns Lord Donaldson

and, if possible, to make converts of the undecided. Penal policy is intended to protect the public and reduce crime, while ensuring that the victims of crime and the accused are treated fairly. These political and judicial objectives are wholly different. The means of achieving them may be the same, but not necessarily so. With this in mind I read Michael

Howard's speech to the Tory party conference, I found much with which few would disagree. He wants fewer criminals to be cau-

tioned. Quite right. In the case of minor crime and a first offender, a caution may be effective. But a caution in the case of a serious crime or a second offence is quite a different matter. It sends the wrong messages and fusters the belief that you can get

away with crime. He wants fewer criminals out on He wants fewer criminals out the saleged bail. Quite right. But until the alleged risk, harsher penalties are irrelevant.

Mr. Howard says that too many criminal has been tried, we do not know whether he is a criminal. If he is innocent, there can be no greater injustice than to have denied him bail.

Judges and magistrates must be left with the discretion to balance justice to the accused with the need to protect the public. Sometimes they will get it public. Sometimes they will get it

Speeches at party conferences are intended to encourage the faithful much the better, but Mr Howard does not say how this can be done. Mr Howard claims that prison

works. The evidence for this is said to be the drop in recorded crime. No one doubts that in appropriate cases, deterrent sentences can make criminals think twice. No one doubts that keeping dangerous people in prison protects the public. What is more questionable is whether figures for recorded, as against actual, crime are a true index of the success of imprisonment. The less confidence that the public has in the police to bring the criminal to justice, the less crime will be reported.

The true answer is that provided by Lord Thylor, the Lord Chief Justice. Persistent criminals take account of two factors: the chance of being caught and what happens if they are apprehended. At present, far the most important is the isk of being caught. If, as many crimmals believe, there is virtually no such

guilty men walk free from our courts because our lawyers are masters of using procedures to win their cases. He says that he ought to know the ways of lawyers because he is one. What he

guilty man should walk free than an years may be out in one. How does this innocent one should be convicted. He come about? Fixed sentences of imprisshould know better than to suggest that, under the present rules, trials are games of monopoly under which you go free because you managed to avoid the square marked "jail".

Mr Howard says that for the Tory party it is the victim's interests that must come first, not those of the vil-

This proposal is an epic constitutional change which should be resisted by all who value justice

lain. Who could disagree? But justice requires that great care be devoted to identifying the villains. Anything less would be lynch law.

But it is when he turns to sentencing policy that Mr Howard really breaks new ground. He says that release from prison comes too soon. A robber who receives a sentence of two offender can be reformed by being Master of the Rolls, 1982-92.

onment have always been subject to remission for good behaviour. That makes sense. Prison discipline cannot be maintained if it makes no difference whether the prisoner riots or co-operates. But this remission need not be anything like half the sentence. This is a very recent innovation. It came about simply because there were more prisoners than the prisons could hold.

Mr Howard now proposes virtually to abolish remission for good conduct. He does not say whether this will apply to existing prisoners, which would be a gross injustice. Nor does he say how the system could cope with an increased prison population. He appears to have given no thought to the problem of maintaining prison discipline. Of course he has a point. But good behaviour must bring some reward.

Mr Howard seeks to justify this

reform on the grounds that he is sup-porting the judges. He says that the changes will enable the judges to mean what they say when they pass sentences. But other reforms that he proposes belie this claim. One of the essential skills of the good sentencing judge is to be able to spot the excep-tional case in which a habitual

given a chance. Mr Howard proposes minimum sentences which would prevent judges from taking this course. Far more serious is a proposal that two convictions for certain offences

shall automatically lead to a life sen-

tence. Release from prison in the

case of a life sentence depends not on

the decision of a judge but on that of the Home Secretary. Whether this will

strike terror into the hearts of criminals, I do not know. But it terrifies me. Our judges may make mistakes in sentencing but they can be put right on appeal. And however mistaken they may be, they are not swayed by sustained campaigns either for or against particular types of crime or particular criminals. Judges seek to do justice. They seek to balance the interests of the victims of crime and of society itself against the human rights of criminals. I have no confidence that

trusted to do the same. This proposal to transfer responsibility for the time which a criminal spends in prison from judges to politi-cians involves a constitutional change of epic proportions that should be resisted by all who value justice.

politicians seeking re-election can be

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CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

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Source: Datastream

IN BRIEF

Samsung plans London HQ

South Korean electronics giant Samsung has confirmed it would move its European headquarters and training centre to London from Frankfurt. The move, announced vesterday during the Queen's opening of Samsung's new £450m plant at Cleveland, will create up to 500 jobs by the year 2000. The company has bought an 8.83 acre site at Hounslow.

Premiums down again

Insurance premiums are falling again after a slight upturn during the summer, according to the AA. The average cost of building insurance is now £133 a year, down 5.7 per cent since July 1994 — in spite of the addition of 2.5 per cent insurance premium tax in the 1994 Budget. Home contents insurance premiums are down 4.5 per cent over the same period, while comprehensive motor insurance costs 4.3 per cent less - an average of £351. The report comes just as the insurance industry is lattriching a campaign against any plans the Chancellor might have to double the tax to 5 per cent next month.

Job cuts at RJR Nabisco

Tobacco and food giant RJR Nabisco is moving is moving the headquarters of its international tobacco operations to Geneva, and cutting 575 jobs at its American operations as part of a worldwide restructuring which the company says will add \$150m a year to its bottom line. The changes will mean a \$160m charge against fourth-quarter carnings.

Aran rejects £182m Arco bid

Aran Energy, the Irish oil company, has called on shareholders to reject as inadequate the revised £182m offer from Arco of the US. City analysts expect the battle for Aran to move forward next week with a potential "white knight" bid from Statoil, the Norwegian state-owned energy group. Statoil is considering entering the fray but has given no firm commitment.

'Scope for rate cut' after US prices data

US consumer price inflation rose by 0.1 per cent in September, somewhat lower than the market had expected, but core prices by 0.2 per cent as had been anticipated. The monthly increase took the yearly all-items rate up to 2.5 per cent. According to Mark Cliffe at HSBC Markets, this meant there was still scope for lowering interest rates.

Buyouts expected at British Coal

British Coal named management buyout teams as the preferred bidders for its British Fuel subsidiary, the last of its major trading arms to be offered for sale. Heptagon, a company led by executives including David Port and backed by Apax Partners, is the likely buyer for most of the company. Management have also emerged as the preferred bidder for the remainder of British Fuels - Cawoods of Northern Ireland.

Country Casuals fights £26m bid

Tom Adam, chairman of the women's clothing company Country Casuals promised a tough fight against the £26.8m takeover bid launched by his predecessor, John Shannon. "We intend to contest the offer vigorously." he said yesterday. "As Country Casuals' former chairman and chief executive, Mr Shannon is fully aware of the group's potential."

Flotation plan: Benefits for policyholders and customers if company abandons historic mutual status

Norwich faces £1.7bn decision

Up to 2.5 million Norwich Union policyholders look set to gain from a £1.7bn cash bonanza if they agree to allow the company to float on the stockmarket.

The windfall could mean average bonuses of between £600 and £700 per policyholder if the company abandons its mutual status by 1997. Experts said yesterday that

the flotation would allow the company to expand in a number of markets, most crucially the life sector in Europe and the Far East. The development of general insurance, where it already has a significant presence, would also be a major aim for Norwich Union.

The company yesterday re-fused to say whether it definitely intended to float. Allan Bridgewater, group chief executive at Norwich Union, said: "The board has been studying the possibility of de-mutualisation and flotation. This is a highly complex matter and a great deal of technical and legal work has to be done before a final decision can be made.

"The preliminary view of the board is that this course of action would produce significant benefits to members of the society and assist the overall de-

velopment of Norwich Union."
Mr Bridgewater added that the amount of work involved in determining whether a flotation was possible meant that no public announcement would be possible until the middle of next year.

Those who may benefit from the flotation this time include with-profits policyholders,

£40m 'on

tap' for

Southern

workers

Employees at Southern Electric

will make an estimated £40m

Scheme if the proposed £2.8bn

takeover of the company by Na-

tional Power goes ahead. The National Power offer

document, issued yesterday,

shows that although the scheme

is yet to mature, the 2,600 par-ticipants will be able to buy mil-

lions of Southern shares -

mostly at £1.75 - and take ad-

vantage of the National Power £10.10 offer price.

The company refuses to re-

veal how they expect to treat Southern Electric executive

share options if the takeover

goes ahead, but it is expected

that four directors of the re-

gional firm could make about

film from shares and exercising options, further fuelling the

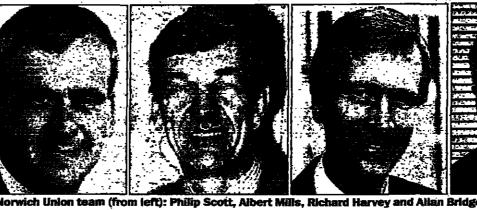
Yesterday, unions added their voice to the debate over

takeover by Norweb. They claim thousands of jobs will be

row over "fat cats".

MARY FAGAN

Industrial Correspondent



those who invest in endowments and pensions, and some unit-linked savers. Holders of general insurance products are not classed as members. Payments will be based on how much savers already have invested with Norwich Union. It is believed no cut-off point

has been chosen for when new policyholders would be denied a share in any flotation. But sources stressed vesterday that a one-off cash sum or added to investing in a Norwich Union policy now would only be allowed if it were suited to their financial needs. "If there is a windfall, it will be quite variable. lay the foundations for a flota-

You might spend £200 to get a bonus of £10," one insider said. Bonuses may be paid either as people's policies, as with Provident Mutual, now being taken over by General Accident.

Norwich Union's decision to

It also follows extensive consultations with a large firm of strategic consultants which

Bacon & Woodrow, a large firm of independent actuaries, that the number of UK insurance firms may balve within the next

societies and life offices, including Halifax and Leeds, Nation comes amid warnings by tional & Provincial and

Provident Mutual, which are also abandoning mutual status. Paul Scymour, a former chief executive of Laurentian Life who is now a consulting partner at the actuaries Watson Wyatt, said: "There has been a lot of generalised talk about the

constraints of mutuality.

"In the case of building societies there is also the argument that their members ought to receive a greater share of the profits that are being

ahead for the company in the next decade and beyond.

It is believed that senior

Norwich directors have been

told that by retaining the com-pany's existing mutual status,

whereby it is effectively owned

by its policyholders, it risks slow commercial suffocation.

Remaining a mutual would

prevent the company from using shareholder funds and fu-

ture rights issues to expand

Norwich Union's move

echoes that of several building

"Generally, however, the arguments for abandoning mutual status for life companies do not apply in the same way. After all policyholders benefit directly from profits that are being generated.

In the case of Norwich nated and to switch enormous Union, the purpose of flotation would be for positive reasons. As another insurer, Commercial Union, has shown, expansion, possibly by aquisition. would be a key factor, especially in the European markets and the Far East."

Stream of mishaps for insurer

Norwich Union may be one of Union has the potential to ex-Britain's largest mutual insur- pand and compete effectively in been at the cost of mistakes that ers, but its reputation has been punctured by a steady stream of embarrassments, writes Nic Cicatti

In the past five years, the company has:

| Faced heavy fines by the financial industry's regulator

Been forced to pull its entire salesforce off the road because they were not up to scratch Lost a packet through overexposure to the commercial property market.

perts still believe Norwich

the world insurance markets. Norwich Union, first estab-

lished in 1797, is now the second-largest mutual with assets in its life fund of more than £25bn. Unlike most other mutuals, it has diversified in the past few years into general insurance and private medical health. Its growth over the past 10

years has been explosive, fuelled in part by the boom in sales of personal pensions, with-profits roperty market. endowments to mortgage bor-rowers, and a range of other life products and investments. But have cost the company heavily.

Throughout the 1980s, Norwich Union's investment strategy banked heavily on the existing boom in commercial property. At one stage, some experts claim, up to 30 per cent of its portfolio was in that area. When the market crashed, NU was forced into rapid reverse, divesting itself of its loss-making investments.

Although the company says that its weighting is now below 10 per cent, this is still high by life industry standards.

problem, compounded by the company's foolishly large sales of with-profits boads - contracts that impose a substantial financial strain because it is forced to match its assets to meet future potential liabilities.

Solvency has also been a

The company was forced to abandon a market it had domifunds into government securities. In March last year, it was forced to pull 800 sales staff off the road after they were found to be too poorly trained. A month later it was fined £300,000 by its watchdog for a series of regulatory failures.

N&P payout at least £500

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

National & Provincial Building Society members will receive balances of up to £50,000 following the £1.35bn takeover by Abbey National.

On Monday N&P will give details of the cash bonuses, which will include at least £500 to all 1.3m members with a minimum balance of £100 in the society at 28 April this year.

This payout will take up roughly half the £1.35m price tag, and the other half will be paid out to savers of more than 2 years standing in amounts to be revealed on Monday.

The planned merger between N&P and Abbey National will create Britain's second biggest mortgage lender with a 15.per cent share of the market. N&P chief executive Alastair

Lyons is also expected to confirm that employees and pen-sioners of the society will receive the same amount, but directors will gain no benefit from the merger. Directors will not be able to take part in Abbey National's share option scheme until two years after the merger. Savers of two years standing

will get more - depending on the size of their accounts. People who are both savers and borrowers will receive benefits in both capacities. The merger is subject to the

approval of the Building Societies Commission and N&P members, who will be balloted next year.

The N&P board is unanimously recommending approval and hopes the merger will be completed within a year. This is despite the fact that Abbey's approach was the first ever hostile bid for a mutual society. Members of the society will not receive any eash until the deal is completed.

Both sides insist there will be no compulsory redundancies in the branch network, though 120 branches will close.

The society said when the takeover was announced in July that some jobs may go, but compulsory redundancies would be extremely limited because of opportunities for retraining, a recruit freeze by both organisations and 10 per cent annual turnover of staff.

N&P's Bradford HQ will retain at least its current 1,400 staff. The combined operation will be second only to the recently merged Halifax and Leeds as a mortgage lender and will have 15m customers and 880 branches.



Fat cats besieged: Unison demonstrators outside North West Water's egm in Manchester yesterday Photograph: News Team

boardroom excess, lobbying a North West Water meeting in lost and customers will iose out if it goes ahead. National Power's offer doc-Manchester under the banner: "Public service not private sleaze". Members of Unison company plans to sell £1bn worth of its power stations by dressed as the "cats" called on North West shareholders to reject the planned £1.8bn the end of next March, with

front-runners to buy the plant. will receive about £30m in fees. The company hopes the sale of stations will help to diffuse fears ument also confirmed that the over concentration of power in

the electricity industry.

It has also emerged that, if the
National Power bid succeeds, Eastern Group, recently ac- the banks and other organisa-

The takeovers by National Power and North West Water quired by Hanson, among the tions advising National Power

are still subject to regulatory approval. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, is yet to de-cide whether these bids - and

referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

In spite of City criticism that North West's £1.8bn offer is "overpriced", the company gained approval from shareholders at yesterday's EGM and confirmed that it already owns that made by PowerGen for confirmed that it already of Midlands Electricity - should be 29.52 per cent of Norweb.

Bid fever: Markets still rise on the back of another giant deal

Schroder speculation soars

seen for a long time", was one broker's verdict yesterday on the Footsie's 44-point rise, with talk of a top-100 bid to be an-nounced on Monday and bid speculation which sent shares in Schroders, Royal Bank of Scotland and Standard Chartered soaring, writes John Willcock.

Shares in Schroders, the merchant bank, rose over 100p at one point and finished 88p up at 1368p. Despite a small volume of shares traded - just 252,000 - brokers put forward NatWest Group and Dutch bank ABN Amro as leading candidates to launch a bid.

Schroders is still 40 per cent owned by the Schroder family. A spokesman for the bank commented: "There was not a big volume of shares traded it was just buying interest. We haven't been talking to anyone, and no one's been in touch with

The merchant bank is in the middle of a strategic review to

The frothiest market we've decide which bit of its securities

expecting a big announcement from Nat West, possibly details on the sale of Nat West Bancorp, the group's American retail bank. The group is also known to be interested in expanding its invest-ment banking and fund management activities both in London and New York. Nat West's shares rose 18p to 639p.



arm to build up. 44.2 points at 3.568.0, just be-Elsewhere the market is low its 13 September record close of 3,570.8, after earlier hitting a session high of 3,584.7. Dealers reacted to favourable US data and fear of being

caught out by a mega-bid.
Financial stocks have been driven by bid speculation following this week's announcement that Lloyds Bank is merging with TSB. Royal Bank of Scotland is seen as an affordable target for the other high street banks like Abbey National, NatWest and Baricays, and its shares rose 20p to 522p

with 4.3m shares traded. Rumours this week that Banco Santander might sell its 10 per cent stake in the Scottish bank persisted yesterday. Some dealers mentioned a price of 720 p per share. Standard Chartered is headquartered in London with big operations in the Far East, and as such is also seen as a possible target for the high street banks. Its shares rose 20p to 518p.

set to boost jobs RUSSELL HOTTEN

Ford's engine plant in South

sources say the promise of government aid has persuaded the US car giant to expand its UK

Essex, plant and has announced that some Fiesta production is to be shifted from Valencia, Spain, to the site. Now the company is close to

to produce units for the new Fi-

Ford's £250m site

Wales has emerged as the likely location for a £250m investcapacity and provide a huge jobs The company said it had not made a final decision, but

Ford has already put an ex-tra £200m into its Dagenham,

announcing, possibly during next week's London Motor Show, whether to invest in new power train facilities at Bridgend

with about three-quarters of them going abroad. They in-clude units for Mondeos. "We have a significant investment under review but no final deciment that would double sion has yet been made," said a Ford spokesman yesterday. Bridgend is part of the equation and any announcement could well create many new jobs. We hope to make an offi-

cial announcement soon."

One analyst said Ford may produce bigger and smaller versions of its new lightweight Zetec-ZE 16-valve 1.25 litre engine. Ford's factory in Cologne was another contender for the investment, though this is now thought unlikely. Ford has already been promised an £30m package of

aid from the government and agencies towards at £400m investment by Jaguar in Birmingham. However, assistance towards the Bridgend investment would be substantially lower, probably in single figures.

business



"Nobody relishes being swallowed up in an earthquake, least of all the managers of what until now has been one of the staidest corners of the financial services industry"

Mutual insurers must look hard at the future

Dust off your old life insurance policies, because they could be worth rather more than you think. Norwich Union's admission who own the mutual insurers as for building society members, where the going rate for selling out to a bank is up to £50,000 for that it is looking at whether to become a public company sounds like the beginning of a revolution among the mutually owned insurance companies. Every substantial mutual insurer must now be forced to take a long hard look at its future as a result of the an-

For most of Britain, the first and most important question is not the philosophical one of whether mutual societies should be protected and preserved in aspic as a relic of an older and friendlier form of corporate governance than shareholder owned companies. Rather, how much will we get, and

This is a question of some importance to the insurance industry, too. If the public latches on to the idea that there are large gains waiting to be picked up, there could be a rush of new customers to the likeliest candidates for de-mutualisation, and slow starvation of business for the rest. Funds have been rocketing all year from one building society to the next as their customers have played a highly profitable game of spotting the ones to be bought or merged. The societies have taken to imposing mini-mum deposits of as much as £1,000 to damp down the intense speculation.

Industry experts were claiming yesterday that there will not be the same scale of rewards for the with-profits policyholders weak.

the largest depositors.
On paper, this caution might seem justified. It is possible to make a big single pre-mium investment in an insurance policy, in the hope of receiving a future windfall, though at the cost of a high commission payment. But insurers are likely to give the biggest rewards of a flotation to those who have kept their policies longest, and may give nothing to new customers, however large. If you are going to make money out of it, you are probably already a policyholder of long

standing.
It is also true that only 10 per cent of the profits of a life insurance fund belong to the organisation that runs it, and it is on that basis the companies are valued. The paltry few hundred pounds offered by General Accident to the with-profits policyholders of Provident Mutual, which it is currently tak-ing over, were cited yesterday as an example of the likely lower rewards available, compared with building societies.

But policyholders, particularly those in Norwich Union, should not allow the value of the insurers they own to be talked down in this way. Provident Mutual, Scottish Equitable and London Life, all mutual insurers taken over in the last few years, urgently needed the shelter of a powerful parent and their bargaining positions were worked out by actuaries in reports so full of gobbledegook that there can hardly be a policyholder who understands them. They were not tested by offering the insurers concerned for sale in a competitive marketplace, not least because the management of a mutual society has the whip hand in deciding who to negotiate with, and does not like to be

bought by an aggressive cost cutter who will sack everyone in sight.

There is more than a suspicion that the actuarial method of valuation consistently understates their real market worth. If a large and well known life assurer with a nationally known name such as Norwich or Standard Life converts to a public company or offers itself for sale in an open market-place, it is certain that values will rocket above anything seen so far. But it will not happen overnight. Norwich, if it goes ahead will not float before 1997, and if the pattern of the building societies is repeated it could take several more years for the momentum

The insurance industry itself was pouring 1 cold water on the idea that this would be a rerun of the massacre of the building societies, where mergers, takeovers and con-versions to banks are likely to have removed most of the big names by the end of the decade, if not before. The cantious reaction to the Norwich announcement is predictable. Nobody relishes being swallowed up in an

Furthermore, their sale values were earthquake, least of all the managers of what rorked out by actuaries in reports so full of until now has been one of the staidest corners of the financial services industry.

A rush of conversions of mutual insurers into conventional companies would certainly be a seismic event for them, coming at a time when the life insurance industry as a whole is already contracting rapidly under the pres-sure of competition and shrinking volumes

The industry is fragmented and the players relatively small, with even the Prudential taking only 10 per cent of the market. The pressures are particularly acute on the medium size companies, where tougher regulation has forced massive investment in training schemes and expensive computers and software.

Sales have been hit by bad publicity from the pensions mis-selling scandals and tough competition from PEPs and Tessas, which also have tax advantages that life insurance policies lost in 1984. And banks and even Marks & Spencer are moving aggressively into their markets.

Smaller and medium sized life companies are now a dying breed: long before the Norwich announcement, the consensus in the industry was that the total number of life companies would halve to about 50 by the beginning of the next decade. Many are asking themselves whether their real task now is to prepare themselves to be swallowed up by a bank, a building society or another

The Norwich move now puts the big mu-tuals into play as well. It is not only the first, but possibly the most interesting to the stock market among the mutual insurers. since it is closest in nature to the large pub-licly quoted composites that deal in life, pensions and general insurance. That gives Norwich a commercial value over and above its life funds. It has nevertheless suffered in comparison with the best of the quoted companies. Its performance has been lacklustre and its management unimaginative and slow to grasp the changes that are sweeping

the industry, such as direct selling by phone.

So why is the management prepared to cast off the protection of mutuality, which makes a hostile takeover almost impossible? Naked ambition or a desire for the personal rewards of the private sector could be playing a part. But the key could be a realisation that in the UK's fragmented market even a company the size of Norwich may soon be faced with selling out or expanding to a more commanding position as the industry rationalises. Norwich, as it stands, may

not be big enough to survive and prosper.

A flotation, which could raise new capital for Norwich as well as paying the policyholders who own it, would provide money to expand in Europe and to diversify further into general insurance in the UK. As building societies have found, mutual ownership has lost its attractions in a financial services industry that is changing at an astonishing

Catering flop: Top chef's Covent Garden business forced to cease trading despite directors' cash injection of £270,000

Roux food business runs into trouble

DAVID HELLIER

In the past few weeks, celebrity chef Albert Roux has been fighting a desperate battle to keep one of his trading companies alive - but it appears he has failed.

One of the trading companies of his business empire, Roux Lamartine - which has traded fruit, vegetables and poultry at London's New Covent Garden market for 14 years - has ceased

the company's offices last week explained the predicament: Dear chefs, we are sorry to tell you that after a long struggle we have had to close down....

Thank you for your support.": countants to convene a creditors' meeting later this month thooks of the argument section 98 of the Insolvency Act.

Insulation of the Insolvence acreding the description of the Insolvence acreding the Insolvence acredin

accounts, which were filed earlier this month at Companies House, show that since April Mr Roux and another director, John Monk, provided more

than £270,000 to help the company meet its liabilities. But even this does not seem to have been enough to save the company whose debts are estimated at more than £1m.

The latest full-year results show a loss of £221,217, which is down on losses of £414,787 the previous year. The balance sheet shows no cash in the bank at the April year-end. A footnote to the accounts states: "Due to the breakdown and lack of documentation in the year ended 30 June 1994, it is not possible to identify separately distribution and administration

expenses," the accounts say. A spokesman for the accountants, Taylor, Gotham and said yesterday that the

The company's latest set of ble at this stage to say what Albert Roux, who is a director of Roux Lamartine, was un-

available for comment. The Independent tried to contact him several times. Mr Roux is also listed as a director of a host of other catering companies, including Le Gavroche and Roux Fine Dining, which he recently sold to Compass, the catering services group.

The financial performance of Roux Restaurants, owned principally by the Roux family, improved in the past year - but only because of a near £1m profit on the disposal of discontinued operations. Although the company made an operating loss for the year of £553,747, it made a pre-tax profit of £343,280 after disposals. Its accumulated losses are still around £650,000.

television series in England during the 1980s and wrote a book As Home with the Roux Brothers. The brothers first would happen to the company but that it was inevitable that a mother; Albert was apprenlearned to cook from their liquidator would be appointed. ticed at 14 as a patissier and later cooked for the British embassy in Paris.



Turned sour: Albert Roux, seen left with his brother Michel, has failed to save his Covent Garden market business

'No apology' in Daiwa scandal

DAVID USBORNE New York

On Wednesday, Japan's Minister of Finance, Masayoshi Takemura, got on the telephone with his American counterpart, US Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin, to discuss the Daiwa scandal. That we know. But when it comes to what was actually said there are two rather distinct versions: a Tokyo one and a Washington one.

The Washington Script: Mr Takemura may not have grovelled, but on the issue of why six weeks were allowed to pass from the moment his ministry first learned of Daiwa's \$1.1 billion bond trading loss until the same information was given to the US authorities, he was allegedly deeply contrite.

Mr Takemura "acknowledged the ministry's failure to inform the US authorites promptly" that a single trader at Dawa's New York branch, Toshihide Iguchi had stolen more than a \$10m to cover up losses racked up over 11 years and deceived American regu-

lators, a US Treasury reported. To Washington reporters that sounded much like a formal apology. Moreover, Mr Take-mura, they were told, had, almost like a child asking for forgiveness, vowed that his ministry would mend its ways. "He promised it would not happen again", Mr Rubin's press office stated

The Tokyo script: "Mr Takemura did not apologise to Mr Rubin," retorted Eisuke Sakakibara, a spokesman for the and get back to him when it had Rubin to know.

press conference in Tokyo on Thursday. Instead, he said, the minister had simply "acknowledged that there was a partial failure of communication."

Indeed, said Mr Sakakibara. for its part the Japanese Ministry still does not believe it has anything to apologise for. "I don't think there was anything improper in what we have fire at the first sign of smoke, done. The Tokyo press corps

Cultural differences may also The Tokyo press corps was furthermore informed that there had been "no mistakes". wind of the loss on 8 September, when Daiwa Bank approached a senior ministry official, Yoshimasa Nishimura.

Mr Nishimura apparently told

whicks later and it was another week before the US was told. Mr Nishmara suggested that

cultural differences were partly to blame for the dispute. Japanese officials tend to bestow trust in bankers and like to get all the details of an affair before going public. The Americans believe in pouncing on a

have played a role in the different interpretations of the call. The ministry had first ad-mitted last Monday that it got of each side massaging the news for their respective audiences. Whether there was really some Japanese scraping and bowing or just non-committal acknowledgement is something only for Messrs Takemura and

Rhino crashes into Electronic Boutique after £6m loss

TOM STEVENSON Deputy City Editor

Rhino Group, the struggling video game retailer, launched its second rights issue of the year yesterday in a cash-raising exercise that could see its largest shareholder gain majority con-

The Electronics Boutique Inc (EBI), already a 25 per cent shareholder in Rhino, could see its shareholding rise to more than 50 per cent thanks to a commitment to underwrite the company's five-for-six cash call. Rhino's shares closed 1.5p

lower yesterday at 11p, com-pared to the 8p at which the rights are pitched. The effective takeover of Rhino has been

sanctioned by the takeover pan-el, which has said a full bid will not be required even if the US company's stake rises above 29.9 per cent. EBI plans to use Rhino as a launching pad for its

European expansion plans. Both companies operate in the same business, selling video games, PC software and related products. Unlike Rhino, however, EBI has prospered, growing fast since it was found-ed in 1977 and now generating sales of \$295m from its 413 stores in the US and Canada.

Rhino, by contrast, has suffered from a slump in the British market last year as children held back from buying games as they anticipated the

The shares crashed from a high of 65p just before Christwas 1993 to a low of 7p earlier this year as big companies such as Sony slashed prices and re-tailers such as Our Price and

Virgin discounted to match. The rights issue is part of a new strategic plan which will see Rhino change the name of its Future Zone shops to Electronics Boutique. It will also change its year end to January from December.

Yesterday's cash-call announcment accompanied half year figures showing a pre-tax loss of £6.68m up from £1.57m last time. Turnover in the six months rose slightly from £17.4m to £18m. No dividend is

OFT threat to TV retailer

NIGEL COPE

The Office of Fair Trading has threatened to revoke the consumer credit licences of Colorvision, the Liverpool based television and video retailer, following a number of complaints from customers.

Shares in the company slumped 7p to 40p on the news though the company said it would issue a robust response to the notice. It has 21 days to submit a written or verbal case to the OFT.

Colorvision's managing director, Alan Tinger, said the OFT statement was "a complete bombshell". He said: "We do not feel we have been treated fairly. We will be making a very plaints include accusations of misleading price information and question marks over the effectiveness of product repairs.

It is the second time Colorvision has run into trouble with the OFT. In 1993 the OFT said it had received 30 complaints from customers. Yesterday it said it had received a further 13 complaints between 1993 and December 1994. It also referred to 121 trading standards convictions between May 1989 and July 1995.

The "minded to revoke" notice from the OFT is a serious threat to Colorvision. Almost half its sales are made on credit terms, and finance agreements account for a significant proportion of profits. The removal of credit licences would push the group into loss and threaten the future of the business.

However it is believed Colorvision should be able to show that it has taken steps to improve its credit systems. Six of the 13 most recent customer complaints were from one shop, which is now under new management.

Colorvision pioneered a "management enterprise scheme", under which shop managers invest a sum of capital into a branch in return for a proportion of profits. The scheme is designed to motivate

One of the problems with the "hid-

den" evidence, however, is that nearly all the other cited cases of

Echoes of Guildford return to haunt appeal by the Guinness Four

Allegations of conspiracy feature in a City fight next week to overturn fraud convictions, writes Jeremy Warner

Conspiracy in high places, confessions extracted under duress, the withholding of possibly vital evidence by prosecuting authorities - anyone would think this was the Guildford Four case. This is also, however, what the four convicted Guinness defendants - Ernest Saunders, Gerald Ronson, Tony Parnes and Jack Lyons - claim happened to them.

On Monday, the Court of Appeal begins hearing aspects of these al-legations - that defendants were unjustly deprived of their right of silence and that the Serious Fraud Office withheld evidence in its desperation to secure convictions. Lawyers rate their chances of a success as middling to high.
The Appeal Court hearing is only

part of determined efforts by all four Guinness defendants to have their convictions quashed. Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, is also lighting to clear his name in Europe, claiming use of Department of Trade and Industry interviews as evidence

deprived him of a fair trial. Already he has achieved a con-siderable breakthrough in having his case referred to the European Court of Human Rights. A scheduled hearing in May was delayed until next year to allow the Appeal Court proceedings to take place first.

Two of the defendants, Saunders and Lyons, dispute that they were ever a part of the complex shares fraud which enabled Guinness to gain control of the Distillers liquor company in the mid-1980s, but this is not the basis of the appeal. The other two, Parnes and Ronson, admit that they participated but claim there was no dishonest intent.

The appeal is based on alleged abuse of power and the holding back of evidence helpful to the defence. Saunders and his lawyers maintain that the use of evidence collected by DTI inspectors, who have the right to compel witnesses to answer questions on pain of imprisonment, deprived him of his right of silence and



as a consequence a fair trial.

Furthermore, be alleges that po-

lice were deliberately kept out of the

Guinness affair for a number of

months to allow the DTI a free hand

in using its powers of compulsion to

obtain self-incriminating statements.

This was a conspiracy that went to the highest possible levels in gov-

ernment, according to Mr Saunders, to secure high-profile fraud convic-tions regardless, he insists, of nor-

Ironically, the prosecution case

mally accepted human rights.



these transcripts, but on the evidence

of Olivier Roux, Guinness's finance

director, and senior auditor, Howard

Hughes. However, the transcripts

were used extensively to discredit

Saunders in cross-examination. Fur-

thermore, the case against Parnes and

Ronson was almost exclusively based

on these interviews, which amount-

ed in all but name to "confessions".

The other aspect of the appeal

centres on evidence that was in the

possession of the SFO at the time of



against Saunders was not based on the trial but was kept from defen- were perfectly proper. The Director

dants. What it showed was that a

number of Guinness-style share sup-

port operations were conducted in

the mid-1980s, lending some cre-

dence to defence claims that the

Guinness indemnities were not

unique. According to Parnes, such

practices were a "grey area"; few be-

had in its possession the private find-

ings of a City disciplinary tribunal,

which concluded that such operations

More damning still, the SFO also

lieved they might be illegal.



Appealing case: The Guinness Four convicted of fraud - (from left) Ernest Saunders, Gerald Ronson, Tony Parnes and Jack Lyons

findings. This, too, was kept from the defence and the judge. Whether the opinion of a private City disciplinary body would mate-rially have influenced the outcome is anyone's guess. Lord Spens, who stood trial over Guinness but was not convicted, says he has not the slightest doubt that had this evidence been available to Saunders and the oth-

ers, they would have been acquitted.

General of the City Takeover Pan-

el, Tim Barker, was a party to these

indemnified support involved peo-ple who were also part of the Guinness affair. To the extent that such practices were common, therefore, they may only have been so among a relatively small group of practitioners, many of whom ended up being prosecuted over Guinness. The SFO has always maintained that there was no deliberate attempt to withhold evidence, which

in any case it regarded as being irrelevant. The decision not to release it was taken on the advice of counsel. Furthermore, more onerous rules on disclosure that might have required the release of such documentation were not introduced until some years after the Guinness trial. Shortly before the trial, lawyers for Parnes received written confirmation from the SFO that all unused material had been disclosed.

Failure to defend the convictions would be a serious setback for the SFO. Though the SPO's record in prosecuting fraud is not as poor as often portrayed, it does have a bad record on complex securities fraud. The Guinness Four are among the very few high-profile convictions.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Odds favour long-term growth stocks

week are guaranteed to confuse. No one appears to know where the market is headed and pundits' views are disproved daily, a re- companied often disappointing inminder that forecasting is rarely anything but a mug's game.

Political worries, conflicting eco-nomic statistics, weak consumer demand and a raft of profits downgrades seem at odds with the Foot-sie nudging its all-time high. What appears to be keeping it at these lev-els is a combination of feverish bid rumours and strong institutional cashflows.

For most investors, judging the next move of the market as a whole is of academic interest only. Of more practical use is judging correctly which areas of the market are likely to benefit most at any given point in the economic cycle. That is the key to investment strategy.

BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays, believes we are at a watershed in the cycle, the end of the recovery phase which followed recession and the beginning of a pe-

The stock market's gyrations this growth stocks at the expense of cyclical recovery plays.

The firm argues that the recent spate of profit downgrades which acterim results announcements is actually only a pause in growth. The next upward push will be driven by easing input price pressures next year, rising margins (which are still below the last peak) and the benefit of cost-reduction programmes since the recession.

Consumer stocks look less attractive than industrial companies. As a result of low inflation, the ability to improve prices will also be less of a factor and the best-placed companies over the next stage will be those that invested heavily to cut costs and become more efficient.

Other likely features of the next stage in the cycle are expected to be some broadening of the range of price/earnings ratios, which is narrower currently than for 30 years. That will also favour long-term growth stocks as earnings growth po-tential is more highly valued than riod that will favour long-term simple recovery from recession.

The final beneficiaries of the secsmaller companies, which per- 260p in June 1988 but have been on formed so well in the latter part of the slide since. Yesterday's 15 per the 1980s. Almost by definition cent fall to 40p takes the shares close they offer greater growth prospects to their all-time low of 24p. than larger companies and cur-rently they suffer from low valuations life and death for Colorvision.

Gloomy picture at Colorvision

The horizontal hold is well and truly on the blink at Colorvision, the television and video retailer. It's already struggling to cope with cut-throat competition in the electrical retail market and fragile consumer demand that shows few signs of strengthening.

Yesterday's announcement that the OFT is considering revoking the Colorvision's 86 outlets are based company's consumer credit licences merely added to the uncertainty sur- battle with the larger and more powrounding a stock that has been a terrible performer since soon after floating in 1987.

erful Dixons. Colorvision only has two out-of-town superstores and a handful of concessions in branch-

ond part of the cycle could also be the late 1980s retail boom to hit

The OFT warning is a matter of Credit finance accounts for almost half of group sales and a significant chunk of profits. Removing the fi-nance income stream would turn the group into a loss-maker. Even if the licences are renewed the OFT is likely to insist that Colorvision up-grades its finance systems, which will increase costs and shave already wafer-thin margins. The negative publicity will also affect customer confidence

The market is not exactly moving in Colorvision's favour either. Though sales of electrical goods have drifted out of town, nearly all on the high street where it must do

The shares rode on the back of the late 1980s retail boom to hit the late 1988 but have been on the late 1988 but have been on the late 1988 but have been on the late of Courts, the furniture group. Though Rumbelows and most electricity companies have beat a hasty retreat from electrical retailing, little capacity is being removed from the market. Store groups are

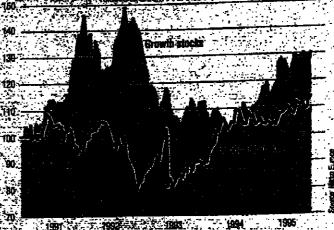
> of £1.2m for the current year, which puts the share on a forward rating of 10. Even that cheap rating does not compensate for the considerable

Americans move on Rhino

Hindsight is a wonderful thing in in-vestment but Rhino, the computer and video games retailer, was never going to be anything but a pret-ty volatile stock. Launched in September 1992 on the back of a surge of interest in screen-based games, the company's shares rocketed over the following 15 months.

EBI is planning to use Rhino as a launching pad for its planned European expansion and after the shares are best left to EBI.

simply changing ownership.
Colorvision's broker Beeson Gregory is forecasting full-year profits



Growth and cyclical stocks

Maintaining that rise, however, was

tinuing. It didn't.
Since Christmas 1993 it has been Electronics Boutique Inc (EBI), an American company in the same business, is underwriting a rescue rights issue. The cash-call, on the basis of five new shares for six existing units, will raise about £9m.

rights issue could end up with more always dependent on the fad con- than 50 per cent of the shares. It has received special dispensation from the takeover panel not to have to downhill all the way, with the shares bid for the company if its stake intumbling from a peak of 65p to just creases over 29.9 per cent. The rights 11p yesterday, 3p above the price at issue, the second this year, paves the which the 25 per cent shareholder way for a new strategy which will in-Electronics Boutique Inc (EBI), an clude rebranding Rhino's Future Zone shops as Electronics Boutiques by Christmas, guaranteeing lower prices than any competitor and using EBI's systems to judge consumer trends better.

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Is Major in a fix over mortgages?

Peels of laughter have been echoing around certain building society corridors. The lenders believe that John Major could still be locked into a fixed rate mortgage at around 9.25 per cent, costing him hundreds of pounds a month. Some are even suggesting that the Prime Minister's alleged dilemma might offer the perfect advertising opportunity.
"If it's good enough for him, its good enough for the public," guffawed one.

Mr Major was accused of fixing his mortgage by Bryan Gould at the 1992 Labour Party Conference - shortly before the sterling crisis and the 15 per cent emergency rates announced by Norman Lamont. "So much for his confidence in his economic policies," Mr Gould told the delegates.

Quite who sold the Prime Minister the deal is not known. But some point accusingly to Mr Major's resounding endorsement of the Skipton Building Society during Prime Minister's question time in the summer Mr Major, defending the withdrawal of state support for unemployed home-owners, lauded the society's unemployment package

"We can't possibly comment," said Number 10.



Fixed up: the Prime Minister could be locked into a very costly 9.25% home loan rate Photograph: PA

A bid for Schroders from National Westminster Bank might well drive Philip Augar to drink. NatWest's former equities and capital markets man has only recently left for Schroders in order to develop its securities side. Unfortunately, he remains hamstrung while the merchant bank agonises over its strategic review of the business, which is not expected to be completed before Christmas – unless, of course, it is cut short by a bid from NatWest.

If you happen to be suffering from a chronic bont of indigestion, or any other duodenal dilemma, you could do worse than pop along to the Singer & Friedlander in-vestor show at London's Barbican Centre next Thursday.

It features displays from 45 smaller companies, with a combined capitalisation of £1bn. Some quoted, some not, they will all be hoping to catch the eye of over 500 institutions and analysts. Some cannot possibly fail.

Cortecs international, a

£110m pharmaceuticals company, will be offering visitors on-the-spot tests for ulcerous conditions. "It is a rapid test for helicobacter pylori, one of the main causes of stomach ulcers," explains John Breckon, the show's organiser. "It is not physically painful. But if a fund manager thinks he is hale and hearty it could ruin his day."

One demonstration will not be going ahead though. Toad, a hi-tech car security company, was to have triggered its new alarm which

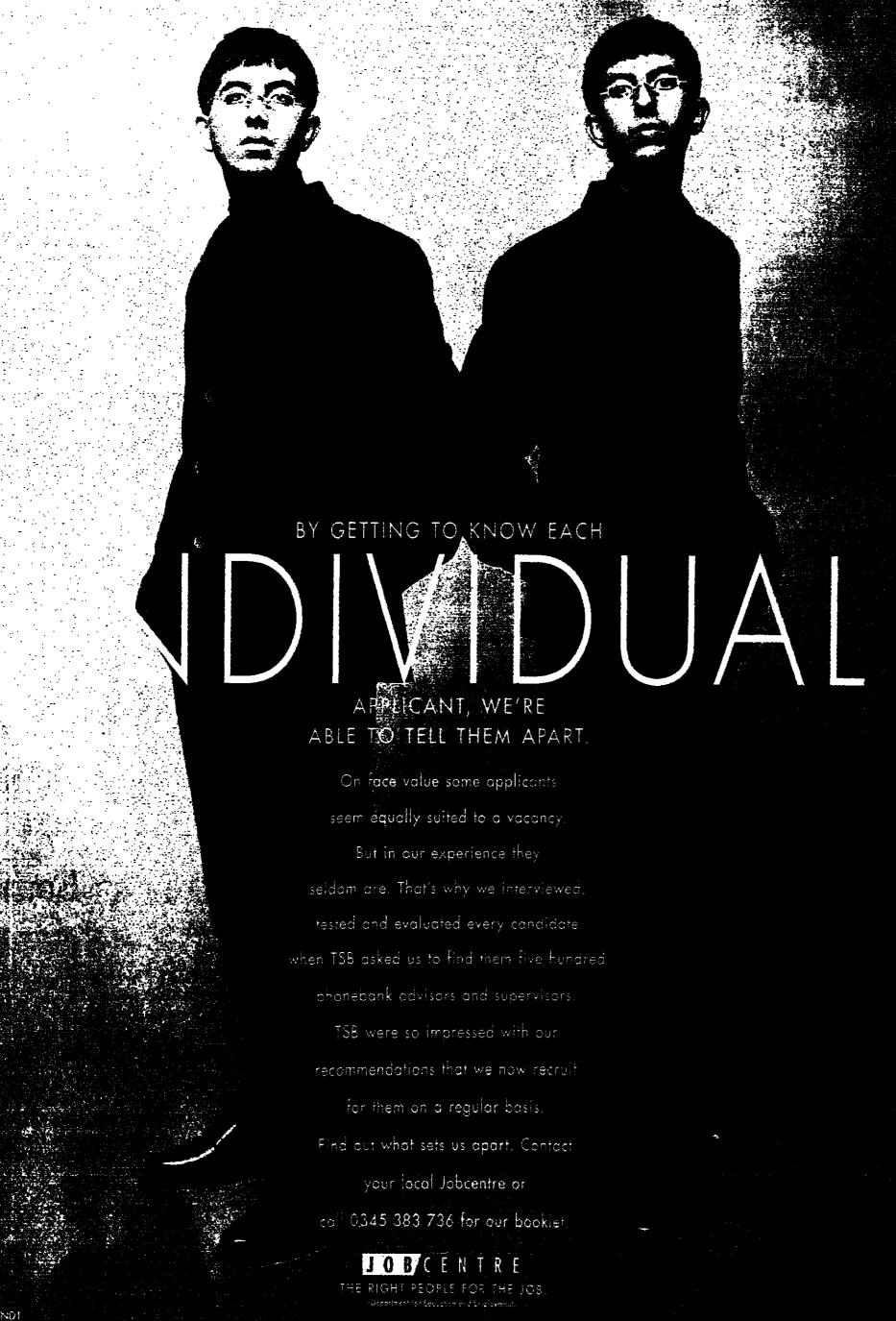
explodes smoke inside a car when a thief gets in. Deeming it to be a fire hazard, Barbican fire marshals have insisted on a less incandescent display.

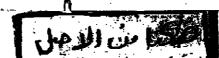
The real reason for the merger of Lloyds Bank and the TSB can be revealed at last. The combined bank will now comfortably outvote Standard Chartered on the steering committee of banks trying to recover squillions from the financially challenged leisure group, Brent

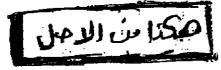
Walker, George Walker's old em-pire has been in the intensive care unit for years, kept alive only by a steady cash infusion from its lenders. A massive £1.6bn refinancing package left Standard Char-tered, TSB, Lloyds and Credit Suisse with huge exposures, which they are desperately hoping to reduce when the William Hill sub-

sidiary is finally floated. We may just have witnessed a critical shift of power.

		COMPA	NY RESULT	S	
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ŀ	Steprite Finance (1)	13.9m (14.4m)	-0.40m (-0.69m)		nii (nii)
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market report/shares

DATA BANK FT-SE 100 3568.0 + 44.2FT-SE 250 <u> 3945.3 +8.9</u> FT-SE 350 1776.0+18.0 SEAQ VOLUME 683.2m shares. 31,033 bargains Gilts Index 92.99 +0.39

Blue-chip bid rumours send prices sharply higher

The speculative mill continued to work at full pelt yesterday, and dealing rooms were awash with a rumour that a huge bid for an FT-SE 100 stock would be made on Monday morning. The list of potential blue chip targets is long and includes Grand Metropolitan, BAT In-dustries, Cadbury Schweppes, Thorn EMI, Schroders and Royal Bank of Scotland.

Whether the rumour is true or not, market-makers were taking no chances and pushed share prices sharply higher. "Twe never known anything like this," one seasoned trader said.

If all the bid rumours flying around the market were to turn into reality there would be a drastic reshaping at the top end of corporate UK. The fact that the already lengthy list of rumours grows by the day owes much to the fact that a great many deals are actually happening, and not just in the

Corporate financiers are al-ready dreaming about their fat Christmas bonus cheques, and perhaps of more to come next year. But the problem with the current market is the confusion being created for investors who, judging by yesterday's trading volume figures, are reluctant to take chances.

At one stage of yesterday's heady proceedings the FT-SE 100 Index, which soared almost 50 points in the previous session, was sporting an advance just short of 61 points. While some of the froth was blown off

in afternoon dealings, the index still closed 44.2 points higher at 3,568.0 – just shy of the all-time high of 3,570.8.

The surge, though, was not supported by buying activity, either from private investors or big institutions. Barely more than 600 million shares had changed hands by the final changed hands by the final bell. And by the time brokers

JOHN SHEPHERD

day's trading, the figure had only risen to 683 million.

Grand Metropolitan was again the focus of much at-tention. The price climbed 13p to 454p, and more than 14 million shares were traded.

of their strongest runs for some time, with the drive upwards be-ing fuelled by speculation only. Most of the speculation homes in on a break-up bid being made by Kholberg Kravis Roberts, the American leveraged buyout specialists, or Grand Met selling its IDV drinks business to Amer-

There was another suggestion that IDV might even be

ican Brands.

Domecq, ahead 9p to 525p. One analyst believed, however, that the mark-up in Allied's shares owed more to a separate rumour that Michael Jacka-

next year and be succeeded by Sir Christopher Hogg, who became non-executive deputy chairman last year. Demand for shares in Roy-al Bank of Scotland was heavy

man, chairman, would retire

in very late dealings, and the price closed 20p higher at 522p, with more than 4.6 million traded. National West-minster Bank, up 18p to 639p, and Abbey National, 2p firmer at 572p, are rumoured as po-

tential suitors.

the front of the charge to buy Gartmore, up 3p to another year's high of 292p. BAT Industries, also tipped as a pos-sible buyer of Gartmore and itself the subject of a break-up rumour, advanced 9p to 555p. Still in financials, Schroders

soared by a full pound at one on the speculative bid list. Volume trading in the bank, which is 40 per cent family owned, was tiny at less than 263,000. The name of NatWest even featured in this particu-

lar strand of gossip.

Lloyds Abbey Life, however, fell 5p to 471p with talk of a line of 5 million shares being on offer. Legal & General put on a late spurt to finish 12p bet-

ter at 640p.
Thorn EMI shot up 54p to
£15.06 amid the revival of talk
that the company's own breakup plans would be pre-empted by a full-blown bid from Via-

the price rise took place in a trading vacuum, with only slightly more than 1 million go-

ing through the books.

Trading in Cadbury Schweppes was, however, reasonably heavy at almost 6 million. The shares, which started the week at 497p, firmed a further 1.5p to 547p with the rumour of a bid from Unilever, down 8p to £12.64, refusing to die

tions and changes of stance by analysts lifted several stocks. Forte rose 5p to 249p as NatWest, a long-time bear, changed from reduce to hold. Analysts at UBS appended the buy tag to several retailers

A raft of buy recommenda-

including Kingfisher, 4p better at 510p, Argos, up 5p to 491p, and Dixons, 2p better at 386p.
The session's casualties in-

cluded Colorvision, off 7p to

☐ There was further gossip of possible stake-building in the USM tiddler BCE Holdings, which has been transformed

TAKING STOCK

Grand Met

The state of the s

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OTHER SERVICES

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from a distributor of snooker and pool tables into a profitable computer games company. More than 1.3 million price rose 0.75p to 19.5p. A similar number of shares were traded on Thursday. ☐ Sketchley, trading at a year's high of 143p, is extend

perks. As from next month shareholder discounts will be widened to include 10 per cent off photo-processing at the recently acquired Supa-Snaps, 10 per cent off all re-tail items at Sketchley and SupaSnaps and 25 per cent off the normal list prices for Sketchley dry cleaning bills. The price of qualification is

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RUCBY EFAGLE CENTENARY WORLD CUP

sport

Fraternity rules in the friendly heartland

Greg Wood enjoys the spirit of true sportsmanship pervading the toumament

hen the kick went through the posts to tie the game with 30 seconds left, it was almost too much for one spectator. He was left wide-cyed, trembling with excitement, shaking his head in disbelief. "Great," he kept saying. "It's just bloody great." No one who was there will forget the day that the Rugby League Centenary World Cup came to Humberside.

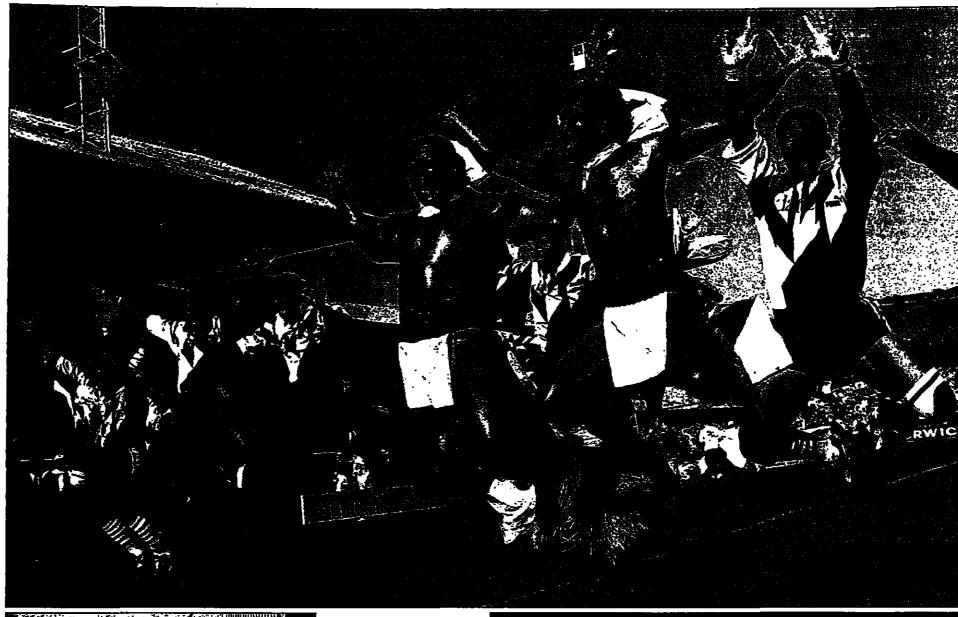
Football and cricket are just as capable as rugby league of reducing grown men to quivering delight, but the fascination at The Boulevard in Hull on Tuesday night was that the emotion had nothing to do with patriotism or self-interest. Papua New Guinea against Ronga on a warm evening in Hull would have a certain nov-elty value whatever the sport, but it was more than simple curiosity which persuaded 5,121 people. almost twice the average gate for Hull FC's home matches, through the turnstiles. Followers of rugby league, it seems, care about the game, not the match.

This fact was clearly lost on those who were claiming, only a week ago, that the World Cup had been undersold, that no one would watch unless England were playing Australia. At The Boulevard, they did more than just watch. There was applause for every run, a roar for each broken tackle, and a gasp and a wince for every one which stopped its target in his tracks.

After the first half, Tonga led 20-0, and allegiance inevitably shifted to their opponents. "It was amazing," Max Tiri, Papau New Guinea's vice-captain, said. "We could feel that they were right behind us as we started to pull back." When the hooter sounded at 28-28, season-ticket holders of 30 years standing could not remember seeing a better match.

Out on the terraces, one voice had been shouting for PNG from the kick-off. It belonged to the owner of a local eans shop, for whom the World Cup had brought a welcome up turn in sales. "Half the team came in and they bought about he gave me one seat and two 10 pairs each," he said. "I've standing," one fan complained never seen so many rock-hard calves in my life. They wanted some funny sizes too, like a 34 waist and a 38 leg, but we managed to sort them all out. They were great, really friendly, and they made sure we got tickets for the match."

Tickets were harder to come by in Wigan 24 hours later, when a full house of 26,000 crammed into Central Park to see England play Fiji, and the kick-off was delayed to pack them all in. "I paid a tout for three seats and





frolics (above) prelude the South Pacific islanders' confrontation with South Africa while (right) the Kiwi forward Steve Keamey consoles his former team mate and now Tonga captain, Duane Mann. Two red-blazered dignitaries from Tonga (left) experience the warmth of Keighley

Dancing for joy: Fijian

Photographs: Simon Wilkinson

But these minor outbreaks of insularity went no further. When the announcer asked everyone to stand for the anthems, they did, just as they had at The Boulevard. A single cry of "England" during the Fijian anthem brought embarrassed hushing from every corner of the Popular stand. It should not have been sur-

the atmosphere at rugby league is how football used to be 30 or Things could change with 40 years ago, with children arranged along the pitch-side wall, a raffle at half-time and the and the Super League, but the

prising, but it was. They say that

bard men on the turf, not the terraces. When the game kicked off, the only thing missing in the fevered support for England was a pair of blinkers. The visitors were never in the match, crushed 46-0 by an exceptional England side, but at the end there were three cheers for Fiji, and all but a handful of the spectators stayed to applaud their lap of honour. It is difficult to imagine a similar scene after a football international at Wembley.

tycoon surely knows when to leave a successful formula alone. He will be delighted, too, by the injection of interest the World Cup should provide. It has, so far, been adroitly organised. The wise decision to postpone domestic matches for the Cup's a bit cold," Martin Adamson, duration must have played a significant part in the arrival of 40,000 fans at Wembley for the opening match, while the tournament format, which goes a long way to guaranteeing an England-Australia final, should the arrival of Rupert Murdoch bring many more back to the stadium in two weeks' time.

The other teams will return home with less glory, but drenched in experience, not least the knowledge that the sun does sometimes shine in England. "Normally when our guys are over here it's starting to get general manager of the League in PNG, says. "This time they've been lucky, and its been marvellous for them to experience the facilities here and to play at such a high level, and the public response has been terrific. Whenever a try is scored, British

whole team as they go back into position. That's something that doesn't happen at home."

It will, you suspect, always happen here. The spirit of rugby league demands it, the same spirit which persuaded a player from Papua New Guinea to break away from the lap of honour at The Boulevard and seek out the man who had sold him some trousers. "That was typical. He just wanted to make sure we'd got the tickets," the shop owner said afterwards. and then he laughed. "Oh, and crowds clap the scorer and the he says the jeans don't fit."

Western Samoa make an impact

their arrival in the World Cup in a thunderous fashion in their opening match on Thursday in Cardiff. Their performance will have worried England, who must now be hoping to avoid the Pacific islanders in the semifinals next weekend.

Western Samoa's powerful exhibition at Ninian Park took them to a momentous 56-10 victory over France, which sent their opponents crashing out of the competition. The bookmakers William Hill immediately reduced the odds on the Samoans - previously billed as the dark horses of the tournament - winning the World Cup from 50-1 to 10-1. Wales, who play Western Samoa in Swansea tomorrow,

The Samoans, the last of the 10 teams to open their World Cup campaign, ran in 10 tries against the outclassed French, showing that anything their famous rugby union brethren can do, they can at least equal.

Hit by injuries and still trying to come to terms with centre Stephane Millet's disqualification from the tournament earlier in the day after failing a drug test. France had no answer to their explosive opponents. Vila Matautia, of St

Helens, dominated what few forward battles there were. He worked tirelessly in the loose and went over for two of the tries to earn the man-of-thematch award - which could so easily have gone to any one of his team-mates, however.

Halifax's John Schuster was in superb form with the boot and kicked eight goals, while Tony Tatupu was also always

Tatupu put Samoa on level terms with a try after six minutes; the full-back Paki Tuimavave added a second and then an explosive burst from Wigan's formidable Va'aiga Tirigamala brought Samoa's third try and, with Schuster adding the points, a 20-4 lead.

Matautia crossed for the first of his brace and, from 26-4 ahead at half-time, the Samoans went from strength to strength. pamala added his second by Matautia followed suit, Tatupu showed that he could do just as well and the substitute. Apollo Perelini of St Helens, added another within two minutes of coming on.

Bryan Laumatia made it nine tries to Samoa before France, who never gave up the unequal struggle, hit back through Didier Cabestany with a try that Featherstone's Freddie Banquet converted.

But Samoa had the last word in the dying seconds when Willie Swann went over beneath the posts for Schuster to convert once more.

Why the best of friends will resume an old rivalry

When Scott Gibbs (left) and Apollo Perelini

first faced up to each other in union, Wales

suffered the unthinkable. Should Western

surveys the opposition at the successful convert at St Helens. Vetch Field tomorrow. For Scott Gibbs, the Halifax Centenary World Cup match against Westsemi-finals, it is also a return to

nightmare country. He was in the Wales rugby union side that lost to the Samoans at Cardiff Arms Park in that code's World Cup in 1991. and he has never forgotten the

Beaten by a side which, at the time, had little international pedigree, Wales faced mockery and vilification. What, they asked in the Valleys, would have happened if they had played the whole of Samoa?

We took a lot of criticism, because at the time Western

5-12 -----

j. .

Onc Welsh player can be had no real record in inter-excused a haunted look when he nationals," says Gibbs, now a "I got smashed on the jaw

in a rare lapse of the rugby

league spirit. "I said I'd rip his

head off if he didn't give me what I'd paid for," he added, as

he and his two companions

settled into their seats. "But

what do you expect? They're all

men, except cockneys. Oh, and Liverpudians. "All scousers are

sinners," a salvationist preached by the main gate. "Neville

Southall may be able to save a

goal, but he can't save his soul."

So, it was goodwill to all

cockneys, up from London."

early on by Junior Paramore; they were a very physical side," ern Samoa is not just a chance he recalls. "We scored two late to qualify for the tournament's tries to get back into it but time ran out for us." The result was widely regarded as an indication that time was running out for Welsh rugby as a whole and that de-

cline had set in. According to Apollo Perelini, who played against Gibbs that day and who is now a team-mate at St Helens and a member of the Western Samoan rugby league squad, that perception was largely the result of ignorance.

"People just thought, 'West-ern Samoa? Where's that?' But if they had looked into it, they would have known that the Samoa had just come up and whole team was playing rugby

MAN FINALE: Subsidiary 21 October: with

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Samoa be the victors tomorrow it would not be such a shock, says **Dave Hadfield** to a good standard in New There is an element of the un-Zealand," he says. "But to them expected about Samoa, but that is because they have never played together. Their side is full

we were an unknown quantity. Perelini, who joined Saints two months after Gibbs, stayed of players whose ability and in the same hotel and was reputation is established, howhelped by him to settle in at the club, says that it is a very different situation this time. Far more is expected from the Western Samoan league side than of their union counterparts four years ago. "If we were to beat them, people would probably say

one else,

ever, and the Welsh team this time is forewarned. "We know Samoan rugby has gone from strength to strength and that a lot of players in the league side play in New Zealand and Britain. We have a better idea what to expect," Gibbs

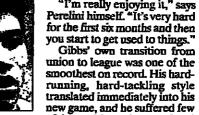
Those expectations include another fiercely physical encounter. "They hit very hard," he says. "They seem to be built genetically different from every-

For Perelini, famously named after the American moon shot, Apollo 11, memories of 1991 in Cardiff are still fresh. "It was one of the finest victories I ever experienced in a blue shirt," he says.
"Wales had always been right up there as a great rugby nation, so to beat them at Cardiff Arms



Park was a great achievement. This game in Swansea hasn't had the hype that the rugby union games get, but it will be a major event in its own right." Perelini, a wing forward in

union, has settled down at prop for St Helens, a sign, as he says, of the need for quicker players in the front row in the modern game. One of his greatest fans at St Helens is Gibbs. "Apollo is a lovely person, but he has a very professional attitude," he says. He has adapted really well."



of the teething pains associated with converts crossing the codes. His only setback was a badiy dislocated elbow which disrupted the latter stages of last season and stopped him taking up a summer contract with Manly, the club coached by the Australian coach, Bob Fulton,

who had been hugely impressed by him during last year's Kan-Restored to full health this

season, Gibbs was always des-

tined to take his place in the

of playing for them at The

there on Sunday and the guys all tell me that there is far more atmosohere there than at Ninian Park," he says. "It has been acknowledged

"There will be a full house

from the start that this was the toughest group, so this match should be something special. Mind you, it's very, very rare you see a dull rugby league

And, as he could but does not add, very rare that you play in one that gives you a chance to rewrite some personal rugby history. Scott Gibbs, after all, does not want to go down in the unforgetting annals of Welsh sport as the man who lost to Western Samoa those breakers of dreams - in Welsh league side, although he both codes.

World Cup update

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Does not include N2 v PNG last night

The stage is ready for Offiah Centenary World Cup campaign today in a match that

promises what he likes best - lots of tries, writes Dave Hadfield. Offiah, who has scored in every match for Wigan this season, has been out of action so far in the tournament with thigh and calf strains. Unleashing him on the bapless South Africans at Headingley tonight gives him not only the chance to

confirm his fitness, but also to

remind himself repeatedly of the mechanics of try-scoring. "We wanted Martin to have a game before the semi-final stage and he has proved his fitness." Phil Larder, the England coach, said. "Clearly it is good for us to be able to call up a player of his undoubted class." Offiah's recall means that

backs brings Barrie-Jon Mather into the centres and gives Paul Cook his first start for England. Cook, the 19-year-old Leeds player, will be given responsibility for goal-kicking on his home ground. If he hits anything like

the kicking form he has shown for his club, he could achieve the unique feat of rewriting the international kicking records in his first full match at this level. The half-back pairing of Shaun Edwards and Daryl Powell need to reassert their seniority

Bobbie Goulding and Tony Smith - both on the bench today – against Fiji in midweek. In the forwards, Mick Cassidy will be used at hooker and, with Denis Betts and Andrew Farrell rested, Simon Haughton and John Bentley switches to the right wing, thus giving Jason Robinson second row.

after excellent displays by

enough to win, and thus ensure playing the winners of to-Wales-Western morrow's Samoa match in the semi-finals, but to win by even more than the 86-6 by which Australia put South Africa to the sword on Tuesday.

The Rhinos have turned out

to be an expensive mistake in this tournament. They are, as some in that country tried to point out, nowhere near ready for this level of competition and would have been much happier in the Emerging Nations event. Nor, given South Africans'

record in these matters, should they have been allowed to come to Britain without being drugtested first, as were all the other countries. That would have avoided the embarrassment of a steroid user, Pierre Grobbelaar, being sent home this week. That

can hardly help their chances of escaping this misconceived expedition without further embarrassment on the pitch. For today's match, their coach,

Tony Fisher, has made a couple of drastic positional changes, in an effort to make themselves less vulnerable. Workington's Mark Johnson, their one player with serious league experience, is moved from wing to stand-off drafted into centre. Sadly for the credibility of this little corner of what has otherwise been a roaring success of a first week of the World Cup, it is unlikely to make much difference.

ENGLAND (v South Africa, Headingley, tonight): Cook (Lends): Bentley (Hairin), Plakney (Heighley), Mether (Migan); Powell (Heighley), Edwards (Migan); Flow (Hairin), Cassidy (Migan), Flott (Auction) (Wann), Hampitole (Wigan), Joyot (St Heiens), Clarine (Sydney Chy Roosters, Subottherie: Gestifting (St Heiens), Smith (Casteford), Broadbert (Sheffield).

Quinnell called up to face Samoans

Welsh debut tomorrow in the most important match since the national team was re-formed. writes Dave Hadfield.

The Wigan forward has recovered from an ankle injury and takes his place in the second row against Western Samoa and second-row Tim Fourie is at Swansea, a match Wales must win to set up a semi-final against England.

Halifax's Mark Perrett drops out, while Neil Cowie, who missed Wales' opening match against France as his wife was having a baby, is on the bench at the expense of

Mark Jones. Samoa's coach, Graham Lowe, is delaying his selection but will not make many changes for a game that is expected to

Scott Quinnell will make his attract a 16,000 full house at Vetch Field.

> Fiji, who play Australia this afternoon, are also holding on for three players rated as doubtful. The full-back, Waisele Sovatabua, has flu. The loose forward, Samuela Marayawa and the goal-kicking stand-off, Noa Nayacakalou, and have knee injuries. The New Zealand Rugby

League has apologised to the World Cup organisers after their hooker, Syd Eru, tested positive for pseudoephedrine. White (Strong) Three v Westam Samon, Vestal Field, Swansen, tomorrow): Harris (Warms-ton); Deversus: (Withes), Glibbs (St Heiers), Bettemen (Cronale), Sullivan (St Heiers); Devices (Warrington, capt), Ellis (North Queen-land Cueboy); Salerstett (Wigan), Hail (Wigan), Young (Selford), Morierty (Haitin), Quienes (Wigan), Eyres (Leeds). Substituties: Covie (Wigan), Eyres (Leeds). Substituties: Covie (Wigan), Eyres (Leeds).

South Africa's great heritage of hospitality

Graeme Wright recalls past tours as England's cricketers prepare for next week's historic journey

works, that the recent vol- tributed to South African crickcanic eruptions in New Zealand should have me thinking of a Test match in South Africa over 40 years ago. It was Boxing Day 1953, and those two countries were due to resume a match interrupted by Christmas Day when news reached Johannesburg that 151 people had perished in New Zealand in a rail disaster. A lake in a volcanic crater had flooded into the little Tangiwai

river and the ensuing torrent

had swept away part of the rail bridge that crossed it. Among the dead was the fiancée of the New Zealand fast bowler, Bob Blair, and when play commenced it was thought he would take no further part in the game. So it came as a surprise when, on the fall of New Zealand's ninth wicket, and the players began to leave the field, the forlorn figure of Blair emerged from the players' tunnel at Ellis Park. For a moment the crowd, some 25,000, were stunned then as one they the press. rose, first in silence and then England's first tour of South applauding Blair on his long,

slow walk to the wicket. As well as the pathos, what remains with me of that incident is the decency, the fundamental humanity, of those South Africans. And maybe, ironically, that same simplicity, what we in a world-weary

Strange the way the mind Britain might call naïvety, conet's exile a quarter of a century ago. The cricket community, essentially liberal, could not see that politics and sport had be-come inextricably linked, could not believe their friends outside would show them the cold shoulder. But now the barriers are down, and next week the first official England cricket team since MJK Smith's MCC side of 1964/65 will arrive in South Africa.

It will be a different South Africa from that visited by their 14 predecessors since 1888/89. Some things however, will not have changed, particularly the hospitality of their South African hosts. Frank Mann, who captained MCC to South Africa in 1922/23, advised his son George, who took the 1948/49 side there, never to accept private dinner invitations but always to dine in the hotel with his team. Mike Atherton might feel more inclined towards the older Mann's other word of advice. Steer clear of

Africa fascinates more for the fates of England's two Test captains than the cricket. Aubrey Smith, captain of the touring party, went on to win fame in Hollywood as an actor and gain a knighthood. But poor Monty Bowden, who captained England in the second



Timeless appeal: Pieter van der Bijl (left), the South African batsman during the "timeless" Test, in Durban in season 1938-39 and 10 years later at the same venue England captain George Mann hits out in the first Test which England won on the last ball

they had to wait until 1930/31

for their next series win.

Test when Smith had fever. man. Lord Hawke. With the refared less happily. Something of turn of peace, however, MCC an adventurer, he died three took over the running of the tours and in 1905/06 sent years later in Umtali, South Africa, after falling from his "Plum" Warner as their captain. cart. While his coffin was From a South African viewpoint this was a great success. Not only did they savour their first knocked together from whisky boxes, his body was protected from marauding lions by an Test victory, they also won the series 4-1 and ushered in the era of their four great googly bowlers: Vogler, Schwarz, White and Faulkner. Four years later South Africa won 3-2, but Before the pause for hostilities occasioned by the recalcitrance of non-cricketing Boers, there were three more visits by

The 1930/31 series, with Percy Chapman captaining Eng-land, was the last in which matting pitches were used in South Africa. Indeed, three of the five Tests were played on grass. But it was on matting at the Old Wanderers ground in Johannesburg that Eiulf Peter Nupen, a one-eyed medium-fast bowler of Norwegian parents, avenged some of the indignity wrought on South Africa by S F Barnes on the mat back in 1913/14. In that series, virtual-

At Johannesburg, "Buster" Nupen took 11 wickets and captained South Africa to a 28run win. Next match, the first Test played on grass in South Africa, Nupen was passed over as captain and took only one wicket.

This time there will be no "timeless" Test as there was at Durban in 1938/39, when the match reached its 10th day before England called a halt in order to catch the train taking them to Cape Town and their

Fraser might rehearse those

there be the slow scoring and attritional cricket that blighted the last MCC tours of 1956/57 and 1964/65. On the other hand, England supporters would gladly settle for the last-ball win off a leg-bye that set up the 1948/49 series. "Cometh the hour, cometh the man," said Cliff Gladwin when he joined Alec Bedser with 12 runs needed in the last 10 minutes and eight wickets down. Perhaps Angus

very words as England fly south

Streak alone in defiance

Heath Streak was the difference between humiliation and respectability for Zimbabwe in the one-off Test against South Africa at Harare yesterday. Streak struck his maiden Test halfcentury after Zimbabwe were reduced to 84 for 7 to guide his side to 170 all out at tea. In the final session Streak took two wickets as South

Africa closed on 74 for 3. Streak's 53 came off just 66 balls and he found a worthy ally in No 11 Charlie Lock, making his debut at the age of 32, as they put on 42 before Donald removed Streak. Schultz, returning after a 26-month injury crisis, finished with 4 for 54 and Donald took 3 for 42.

*†A Flower b Schultz
D I, Houghton c Richentson b Schult
A D R Compbell c Richentson b Schult
G J Whrate C Richentson b Mestinew
C B Withhert c Kusten b Symcox
P A Strang b Masthews
H Street c Mightlen b Donald

8-127 9-170. Schultz 21-7-54-4 (w1); Matthews 13-5-30-2 (w1); McMillan 3-0-13-0 (rb1 w1); Symcox 11-5-21-1.

SOUTH AFRICA - First innings To best: J N Rhodes, B M McMillan, 10 J Richardson, P L Symcox, A A Donald, B

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Today's pools check 3.0 unless stated FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Aston Villa v Chelsea . 2 Blackburn v Southempton 3 Bolton v Everton... 4 Leeds v Arsenal. 5 Liverpool v Coventry.

7 QPR v Newcastle..... 8 Tottenham v Nottm Forest. ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION Derby v Ipswich 9 Grimsby v Oldham 10 Leicester v Chariton

– Miliwali v Tranmere ... 12 Norwich v Barnsley 13 Portsmouth v Birmingham 16 Sunderland v Watford ...

 Wolverhampton v Stoke... SECOND DIVISION 18 Boumemouth v Burnley 19 Bradford v Bristol Rovers.....

TODAY

Matches not on pools coupons 3.0 unless stated GM VALIXHALL CONFERENCE

v White: EXT MILLS LEAGUE Premier Division: Barn-ile v Chapterham; Biddled v Eimers; Braington or Tommenon; Mangiostield v RD UNGTED COUNTIES LEAGUE Pro-

Borcups v Boston Form.

EWISON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division:
Loweston't Humanch and Parlesson. Louges Cupfirst round: Contienes v Mattor; Garcton v Brighingsect. Dies v Sectifikarn: Doenham v Wartop;
Gordeston v Eyr, Halstead v Windham; Hoton v
Somersham; Ipasach Wanderen v Saddaly Kowr;

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Amtriorpe v Beton: Densiby v Theo-ley, Glasstragton v North Femby, Soole v Ach-dick: Learnedge v Osset Town: Natioy MMV v Hatfatd Mars; Casatt Abann v Hallarm; Sheffield v Huck-mail; Specialnoidge v Pickering.

nali, Stocksandgo v Pickerng, UNUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Burgess HW v Portfelt, Crowdorungh v Mittelhami, Eastbourno Count v Three Bridges; Pagarn v Cal-Scottourno Southwick; Shoreharri v Halisham,

20 Brighton v Swindon. 21 Bristol City v Hull 23 Notts Co v Rotherham 24 Peterborougi v Swansea 25 Shrewsbury v York ... 26 Stockport v Brentford 27 Wrednam v Oxford Utd

THIRD DIVISION: 29 Cardiff v Barnet. 30 Darlington v Gillingham... 31 Doncaster v Hereford.....

39 Scarborough v Lincoln 40 Torquey v Preston

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

41 Celtic v Hibernian 42 Falkirk v Klimamock 45 Partick v Rangers ..

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF RELAND Provisions Galway v Deny City (7.0). Combran v Newtown (2.30); Holywell v Bobw Vale (2.30); Llansandifield v Rim.

AVON INSURANCE COnfigNATION First Division; Avona Voystal Palace.

Rugby League HALIFAX CENTENARY WORLD CUP

Rugby Union

Langue Free Sount: Assemb V Lydney; Banong v High Wycombe; Camberley v Carbonne; Hen-ley v North Walshern (2,30); Metropolitan Police v Chetanham; Babard v Weston-super More.

gue Finst Division: Edward Permangue Francisco Guerra de Jugue Finst Division: Edward Adderracis coughruis; Hawste Vatring County; Mercas Division S. P. Galland Guerra Galla Second Division Guarde Soveratt Mehtler Gella Second Counter Soveratt Mehtler Pr V Dunder HSPP et of Scotland v Selerin. Third Division: Big. Division Holland Counter Service Counter Service Helland Counter Service H Costogrine, Fosith Division: Haddington v Glas-gow Southern; Kimemock v Gordonians; Lang-holm v Edinburgh Wanderen; Wigowishine v Ayc. MSSRANCE CORPORATION INSTALL Right Division 2.200; Constitution v Instanlarus; Gar-rjowen v Bullymens; Old Belvedere v Young Munkristkution v Instanlaris; Gar-i; Old Bekrédere v Ybung Mun-Blackrock Collega. Second stave Rangers v Dolphir; Dun-ant; Gregistones v Clorieri; Sun-re Collegis; Wanderess v NFC.

NASTRO AZZURRO SQUTH Premier: Anchori-

cornos. NAMS CAST Premier: Cambridge City v simetant; Cambridge Univ v Bury St Ed-nds; ipseich v Coldiesier; Peterborough Town edfood Town; Redbridge and Blord v Eishop's HORETH Prevaler: Halifax v Southport; Norton v Hartogata; Sheffeld Banks v Heston; Tamperley v Ben Rhydding; Wearingson v Formby. LACE MARTER NORTH WEST Fleet Divisions; Col-viyn Bay v Machesfield; Deende Remblus v Be-

Transit Liston, Satisfa V ancienter (2.0); Silf-ton Carada Life v Hightown (1.130). First Division: Bushests v Cantesbury (2.0); Bushford Switherbarn v Wimbleddon (1.45); Earnouth v Chelmoford (12.0); Sunderland Bedans v Frejans (12.30). Second Division: Addidge v Spenyood (2.0); Loughborough Satisfarts v Wolving (2.30); Otton v Reading (2.0); St Albars v Wolving (3.0). Managery Barrol All Phaselone (1.00).

46 Andrie v Clydebank... 47 Dundes Utd v St Johnstone. 48 Duntermine v Dundee 49 Morton y Hamilton... 50 St Mirren v Durabation .

English sides, two of them un-

der that formidable Yorkshire-

armed guard.

SECOND DIVISION 51 Avr v Stenhousem 52 East Fife v Clyde : 53 Montrose v Berwick 54 Stirling v. Queen of South.

55 Strannaer v. Fortar ... THIRD DIVISION 56 Albion v East Stirling... 57 Allos v Ross County... 58 Arbroath y Queen's Park: Caledonian T v Condenbeath

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Sheffield Wed v Middleshro (4.0)

Livingston v Brechm

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Port Vale v Crystal Palace (2.55)

Baskethall

ice hockey. BOCCHEY.
BENSON AND HEDGES CUP Quarter-final stages: Biosegonie v Nottingham (8.30); Fife v Newtoste (7.15); Humberstön v Wasspi, (5.45).
BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Milton Kense v Stugh (6.30). First Division: Milton Kense v Stugh (6.30). First Division: Biochum v Cheimsford (6.0); Durnifes v Brachum (7.15); Guidford v Manchester (6.0); Medway v Alurreyfield (6.0); Patistay v Billingham (7.0); Swindon v Solihuli (5.30); Teltord v Peterborough (7.30).

Speedway

Other sports

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Di-visions Shartrock Rovers v Athlono (3.15); Uni-versity College Dublin v Drocheds (3.15).

Rugby League

Hockey

MOCIORY

MATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Bariord Tigers v East Grinstand (1,0): Bourwalls v Trigers (2,30): Carracola v Stourport (2,30): Carrisonuy v Hull (1,0): Hassard v Gid Loughterisons (2,15): It houndow v Guidding (2,0): Southpate v Feeding (2,0): Flederington v St Alberts (1,30): Second Divisions Beesston v Herderison Maggies v Feeding (2,0): Fluctuate v Richmond (2,0): Brombay v Stough (1,30): Brodkayds v Giderison Maggies v Lough (1,30): Brodkayds v Giderison Maggies v Lough (1,30): Brodkayds v Giderison (2,0): Charpston v Votord Univ (1,30): Chodya v Gran and West Warwork (1,0): Freibrands v loca (2,0): Hampstond and Westminster v Doncaster (12,30): Sheffield v Sigheston (2,30): House (12,30): Sheffield v Sigheston (2,30): Storo v Westyn (2): Leath (1,30): Sheffield v Sigheston (2,30): Storo v Westyn (2): Leath (1,30): Sheffield v Sigheston (2,30): Storo v Westyn (2): Leath (1,30): Sheffield v Sigheston (1,30): Storo v Westyn (2): Leath (1,30): Sheffield v Sigheston (1,30): Storo v Realization v Spaling Studoury v Ipsacht; Blanch's Storoth v Vallenger (1,30): Storo v Realization v Spaling Studoury v Ipsacht; Blanch's Storoth v Rotts (1,30): Storo v Realization v Spaling Studoury v Ipsacht; Blanch v Vallenger (1,30): Storo v Realization v Spaling Studoury v Ipsacht; Blanch v Vallenger (1,30): Storo v Realization v Spaling Studoury v Ipsacht; Blanch v Vallenger (1,30): Hattorner, Marsafield v Westnesbury; Leitzmay v Notorigians, Marsafield v Westnesbury; Lintonne v RAF Engles; Welterleich v Planney (IoN); Nestor v Soufsport Vernigen v Chese; Blosston v Seed weit; Halfilm v Blaciburn; Liverpool Seicho v Her rogins: Amestham v Fareham; Headingon v Oli Mind Mingdhams; Old Edwinders v Annioch; Die Kengtoners v Sunbury; Old Writgiftens v Winbelder, Rabe V Marketoner, Weltington v Black heath; Wolsington v Welton Hawler; Wolsington v Black heath; Wolsington v Welton Hawler; Wolsington v Welton Hawler; Molengham v Welton Hawler; Mellow Andover; Castrol Hawles v Old Melcountners; Bengstole v Middhause; Serversalis; Mel Susser v Chalkester; Mestow Personser v High Wycombe; Serversalis; Med Susser v Chalkester; Mestow College; Johns v Remighinis; Lawes v Brastone; Personser v Burnernouth; Robinsons v West Witts: US Pottsmouth v Plymouth; Leominier v Stimouth; Leominier v Stimouth; Use Amedown v West Witts:

Baskethali

ice bockey BENSON AND HEDGES CUP Que stages: Notangham v Bacingstok Sheffield v Careff (6.30); Hences (6.30); Wasps v Humberside (6.30). BRITISH LEAGUE First Obligion: Blingtom v Swin don (5.15); Chelmsford v Durnites (6.30); Man

Speedway BATER LEAGUE: Eastbourne v Exeter (6.0); agowy Shaffaid (6.30); Swindon v King's Lynn

2.85: 1. RESTRUCTURE (Past Edden) 11-4 fav; 2. Lap of Lenny 4-1; 2. Wijere 9-2. 8 rps. sh-hd, 2-/s. (Mas J Coci., Nov-market). Pote: £3-9; £1-50, £1-50, £1-70. 0F: £7-20, CSF. £12-40. 3.05: 1. BBNT SALSABE. (W Carson) 15-2; 2. Parrot lengte 14-1; 2. My Branch 5-4 ta: 8 mm. 4, 2. () Durlop, Aundel). Tole: 5-40: 61.30, 52.40, £1.20. DP. £42.70. CSP. £83.89. Other sports ATHERICS: BURN Great Mediands Run (Co 3.40: 1 ALHAARTH (W Carson) 4-7 fav; L Daniehili Dancer 2-1: 3. Testate 12-2

KELSO. 2m 6f 110vds HYPERION 2.00 Wild Rose Of York 2.30 Gale

colgan 4.10 Sharp Sensation 4.40 OING: Good to Firm (Firm in places). Undulating course; run-in of two furiongs. Course is north of town off B6461. ADMISSION

Ahead 3.05 Dancing Dove 3.40 Kil-

Chib 512, 510; Tattersalis 56 (OAPs 53, accordance-16s free). CAR PARK: Pree.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LING-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Vain Frince (4.10) sent 146 miles by N'Inider (from Langton, N'Hos, All On (2.00) sent 143 miles by J Hetherton from Makon, N'Hos. WEATHERBYS NOVICE HUR-

DLE £2,500 2m 110yds 04- ALLEREN (375) J Goulding 7 10 12 _J Supple (3) 3650- BLUE CHARM (177) Mrs S Bedburne 5 10 12 _ 630435- CAMPTOSAURUS (154) D Alder 6 10 12.....

8 0- NECK ROSS (194) R Brevis 4 10 11 ... 6 Hadder 9 SECONDS AWAY / Golde 4 10 11 ... F Percett (3) 10 500-322 BLOOMENS SPRING (24) Mrs 0 Thomson 6 10 7 P TRIMPWY (14) DLamb 510 7.34 A M 13 31 WLD ROSE OF YORK (15) P Montein 4 10 6...

- 13 decisted - SETTING: 11-4 Marco Magalico, 7-2 Wild Rose Of York, 4-1 All On, 5-1 Lura Fort, 7-1 Blooming Spring, 8-1 Swank

2.30 ROTHBURY HOME BAKERY NOVICE CHASE £4,000 3m 1f 2044P ANOTHER MCK (119) J Habback 9 11 1 3 6P2242 COUP DE CHERENE (5) W Baster 9 11 1 11544/ PADLAN (958) W G Reed 7 11 1 60F26-4 THE EMPLOYEER (14) D Lamb 9 11 1. TWO FOR ONE Mass L Russel 6 11 1 .A Tho 6000-55 ALICHARGER (7) Max D Thorsson 5 10 12....

1 0414-U DONOWNS REEF (7) (CD) Mrs L Marshell 911.5 **54**(5)

003-2 GALE AHEND (5) (8F) G M Moore 5 10 12

— 8 decimed — BETTENG: 6-4 Gain Ahead, 5-1 Rise Energises, Donovens Ri 8-1 Comp De Carterina, 8-1 Two For One, 12-1 others

2.25 Pleasure Trick 2.55 Zahid 3.25 Mine's An Ace 4.00 Future King

4.35 Thane 5.05 Time Won't Wait

Left-tund course with 200yd run-in.
Course is SW of Stratford-on-Avon on A439. Stat
Im. ADMISSION: Chois 512; Thisraells 58; Course
CAE PAEE: inside course 52, remainder free.

VINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN BAYS: Starley (5.05) ron at Worcester on Saturday. ONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: What Perce (3.25) sent

2.25 BM LTD LADY RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE £3,000 2m 110yds

3 11/0P-22 SEA BREWGER (77) II Cartillon 7 11 12

4 0.32908 ROWN CHARGE STATE AND A STATE OF THE STATE OF THE

5 Q2222 LAWNSWOOD JUNEAR (7) (SP) J Spearing 8 11.8.
Miles T Spearing (7)

1 232434 SHMROBAM (157) P Beautront 7 12 0...

2 55-421P DARS OF THUMBER (28) (0) J White 7 11 1

0-32506 BOYAL CIRCUS (10) (0) P Hatt 6 11 8...

5.40 Picket Piece

SS Al races

GOING: Good (Good to Phys in places).

ly unplayable. Barnes had ship home. Nor, one hopes, will POTTERTON MYSON MARES HANDICAP HURDLE £3,000 1 213-F22 DANCING DOVE (5) (CD) (RF) G Retrests 7 11.10
B Harding (5)

2 1511-43 TO 0 MANNES (18) (0) J Ower 4 11 7.... S Melrose (7) 3 35PO-40 MENDOWLECK (14) W Durg 6 10 0 ... F Perm

HETTME: 4-7 Dencing Dove, 2-1700 Min owleck, 20-1 Stepringstor GREENMANTLE ALE ANTHON

MARSHALL HANDICAP CHASE £5,000 3m 1f HOLCOLGANI (1276) (CD) Mrs J Good 2 PP532-1 SIDE OF BILL (149 (CO) B Machagant 10 11 3 ...

4.10 SCOTTISH RACING CLUB HAND-ICAP HURDLE £3,000 2m

WAN PRINCE (23) (CD) N Tinker 8 12 0... 2 271-311 SEARP SEASATION (LAQ (CD) W Buder 5 11 8 3 163U32 ELECTRIC COMPATTEE (7) (0) P Monter's 511: 4 034033- EXPLORE MONDMI. (150) T Dyer 4 10 11 6 22182-2 NEEP BATTLING (56) (D) J Golde 5 10 10 ...

7 6P46-4P PRESSURE CHIE (119) (D) 8 Mactagget 12 10 - 7 declared -SETTING: 11-4 Storp Sensation, 3-1 Value Prince, 9-2 Keep Butting, 5-1 Explore Mondial, Brian's Delight, 10-1 Electric

4.40 EDINBURGH CITY FC AMA-TEURS NOVICE HURDLE £2.500 2m 6f 110vds

1 RECUISE (21) M Harryoond 4 11 4 500P-2P 6000 PROFIT (7) W Young 6 11.0 9005-26 MUFED (14) D Lamb 6 11 0 ... Mr K Wheten (5) SHARP SAND P Monteith 5 11 0

- 6 declared -BETENIC 4-5 Reckste, 7-2 Steep Sand, 5-1 Holid, 10-1 Tough Test, 12-1 Norsane; Profit, 16-1 Good Profit

9 03203P INTBALLOU (35) K Wingova 6 10 0...Ame Stoled

— 9 declared —

Minimum weight: 10st. Two hardspap weight: Kudnelou 9st 7b.
BETTIME: 4-1 Pleasure Trick, 9-2 Shabigran, 5-1 Limmowood
Junior, Cixto's Glon, 6-1 Days Of Thunder, 8-1 others

2.55 TARMAC CONSTRUCTION SELL-ING HURDLE £3,000 2m 110yds

P212U5 LAVE DOMINSON (44) (CD) J White 6 11 12 P Mich cognitio (3) 65- CAPTUM MUMBALADE (836) D Thom 6 11 2

| Part |

3.25 CHASE £7,000 2m 5f 110yds

5 1/11548- SPECIAL ACCOUNT (205) (C) CR Barrel 9 10 0 _

1 UZ311-1 GLENOT (1-0) (5) (5) (5) (8) (4) (7) (1-1) (

-13 dec

Masic, Herry From Burry, Presion Gold, 10-1 other

WHARFEDALE MUSIC M Pipe 4 10 10 Lower

on Wednesday.

2.15 What's In Orbit 2.50 Karar 3.20 Chief's Song 3.55 General Rusty (nb) 4.30 Bertone 5.00 Daily Starlight

GO'ING: Chases - Good (Good to Pleas in places); Hur-200yd. Mi Course is on A308 at Sunbury. Buses from Rich-mond underground station. Kempton Park railway sta-tion adjoins course. ADMINSSION: Club \$15, Juniors (16 to 25 pare-olds) \$12; Grandstand \$19; Silver Ring \$5. CAR PARK: Members \$2; remainder, free.

All races

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DESTANCE KUNNESS: Jalcante (2.50), Sar-rey Dancer (3.20) & Reyrouge (3.55) sett 257 miles by Mrs M Reveley from Lingdnie, Cleveland.

2.15 FERRY BOAT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £6,500 added 2m 2225-54 DROMESTICK (16) (0) K Bulley 9 11.7. 2723220- MR FELK (212), (0) J Gallord 9 10 5...... Proved 3214-31 WICKFELD LVD (23) (D) N Belongs 12 10 0.

Minimum: 10st. You h'top weights Wickfield Lad 9st 8th, Man-BETTING: 54 What's in Orbit, 2-1 Mr Fellx, 9-2 Wickfield Lad. 7-1 Drawstick, 25-1 Managour

2.50 PARK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 5f 420214- NEMICEO (161) D Bawarth 7 12 0 ... 122211- JALCANSO (150) (I) Ms M Rendy 5 10 8 _____P News P5-3252 WELSHAWN (11) (C) M Bansham 9 10 4

6 SEZILO POPUNE (LANG) NO. 11 APPRINCE 9-4 Inicente, 7-2 Members, 4-1 Aprincit, 9-2 No. 3.20 CAPTAIN QUIST HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m

132260 AROURS (214) (D) D Elseath 7 11 10 ... P Holley 327160 CHEF'S SONG (214) (D) S Dow 5 11 5 ... Dictor 122325 SURREY DANCER (245) (D) Mrs M Rendey 7 11 5 42-1124 FIVENS ENGLE (14) (0) J White 4 10 13 BETTHE: 1-2 Moors, 11-4 Surrey Descet, 6-1 Chief's Sout.

-7 declared Minimum weight: 10st. Two hundrop weights: Special Account 9st 13b, Rinfra Smart 9st 5tb, Rinfrar Castle 9st 9th, Palminum Castle 9st 9th, Palminum Castle, 8st 18th Ann Ann, Special Account, 10-1 Marin —
1 Michie Joe

4.00 WILLIAM HILL TRIAL HANDICAP HURDLE £4,500 added 2m 3f

P311-P5 HGLY JOE (16) D Burchel 13 11 2 ... D.J Burchel

1- NEVEROLD (292) M Ahem 5 10 0 Lodde Affricum weight: 10st. Toe handlesp weight: Newcold Ser 13o. SETTRIC: 9-4 Lancouse Park, 5-2 Future King, 6-1 Goos Sy. Chicago's Best, Newcold, 12-1 Here He Consus, 14-1 others

4.35 BLOOMER HEAVEN THIT NOVICE HURDLE £4,000 2m 6f 110yds

400P-5 CLASH OF CRIMENLS (10) J S Moore 6 11 0

BETTING: 5-4 At There You Are, 11-4 Scoresbeet, 5-1 There,

1 33/46/3 LONESONE TRAIN (1.6) C Weston 5 11 10 ...

3.55 CHARISMA GOLD CUP (HAND-ICAP CHASE) (CLASS B)

1/3P11- OATHS RECORDES (200) Mich H Knight 7 11 10 221121- UNHOLY ALLIANCE (148) (D) K 828:y 8 11 10.

183190 THE GLOW (11) D Basenth 7 10 5 P Holley 211-211 REPORTAL RUSTY (1/8) C Marst 7 10 4 8 433-113 MUTUML TURUST (14) (D) PHobbs 11 10 3.

9 5111U-1 STRAIGHT TALK (149 (19) P Nichols 8 10 3...

RETTRIC: 4-1 Oatis Regrets, Dahoty Allience, 9-2 Bayeugia, 5-1 General Resty, 31-2 Straight Talls, 7-1 Bas De Laine, 8-1 Branchill Radies, 10-1 Maksul Trust, 20-1 The Glow

4.30 THAMES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 1 14136-1 RERTONE (10) K Baley 6 11 6 R Dunescock F306-1U CAPONIC PRISONE (22) (D 8F) P Nichols 7 11 6

/5-1133 WAVE HILL (S) P Hedge 6 11 0 _M A Pitzgerald P45POF MSS MURE (532) R Curts 9 10 9 D Morris

5.00 HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500

1421 ANLAH (23) P Hobbs 11 10 DAILY STARLIGHT Mess & Kelleway 11 0 INTEST R Curtis 11.0 ... RED ADAIR Bub Jones 11.0....

ZINGBAR B His 11 0 HARD LOVE S Woods 10 9 __ LAST SPIN J Jeniers 10.9 63 MY NOM SAID (11) P Luden 109_ RESK A MELLION J Jerkens 10 9 _____C Rate (7)

~ 16 deck

2122-64 TIME WONT WAIT (2) R Philips 6 11 12 J Railton 0-25106 ILEMIN (33) M Ahem 8 10 11 J M Ahem LIA-P334 VICTORY ANTRIBIO (29) P Clarke 9 1D 2 ..

BETTHE: 6-4 Time Wor't Walt, 3-1 Starley, 7-2 Victory Ac-thom, 6-1 Howin, 10-1 Corlingford Lights

DIGITORIA BEACH D Strench Daws 5 10 12. EN ATTENDANT 8 Herbury 7 10 12 __S Kalghtler

90/JOSO C Direged 8 10 12 ____ J R Navelings 1000- ILEMPA SERRY (148) M Ahem 5 10 12 ___ M Ahem SOMEWARD STOR R House 5 10 12 ___ M Proved ANGERER MONER CURS 4 10 11 ___ D Webs (5) CHIEF DIRECT CROWN J White 4 10 11 ____ MAIN REACT K Date 4 10 15

O SUN CREMARER (79) J Spearing 6 10 ? ___ Lodder DE BARTH LADY J Spearing 4 10 6_ Q Hogies (5) 34 MISS CASHOUL (3) Q Thom 4 10 6_ M Petrett 00-34 MESS CAL

BETTING: 7-4 En Atlandant, 5-2 Picket Meca, 5-1 Mes Canti-tal, 8-1 Chieffain's Grown, 12-1 Delgarit Lady, 14-1 others

BETTING 7-4 Ex Attac

RACING RESULTS

NEWMARKET 4.15: 1. WirStric KINGRHT (Pet Eddery) 9-2; 2. Magic Lake 14-1; 3. Rhumba Duncer 14-1, 12 ran, 11-4 for Creative Account, 1, 1,30; 1, SHEMO22LE (L Denni) 4-11 fac 1%. (R Charlton, Beckhampton), Tota: £5.60; £2.30, £4.00, £3.20, DP, £61.60, CSP; £81.41. Trio; £177.90. Tricast: £759.28. 2.00: 1. PROJECTION (Ps. Eddey) 4-1; 2. Mutadarra 5-2 tsr; 3. Investochy 33-1. 21, ras., sh1-hd, 4. (B Hils, Lambourn), Tota: 27,00; 22-5, £1.70, £5-90. DF; £6.40. CSP. £13.40, Tito: £159-20.

2. Alexaby 12-1; 3. Edan Heights 11-2. 7 ran. 2-1 fev Bowcliffe Court (8th), 14, 4. (G Harwood, Puborough), Tote: £26,80; £4,40, DF: £90,00. CSF: £223,84. Placespot: £47-20, Quadpot: £25,59. Place 6: £19,49. Place 5: £13,26. CATTERICK

2.15: 1. ANIOU (M Nuter) 8-1; 2. Kalemate 11-9 tor; 3. House of Dreams 11-4. 5 ran. 2½, ant-hd. (J Pearca, Newmenter). Note: £13.30; £2.10, £1.50, DF. £7.50, CSP. 2.45: 1. SWYNFORD DREAM (J LONE) 6-4 for; 2. Cambonners 12.1; 3. Methogs Hill Lad 10-1; 4. kmp Express (14-1), 18 ran. 1½, nk. (J Bottomley, Malton), Tote: £2.20;

3.15: 1. SENGING PATRIARCH (K Darley) 8-13 for 2. Codemin 10-1; 3. Power Games 14-1. 11 ram, hd, 3½. (I Dunion, Anundet). Tota: £1.50; £1.10, £2.50, £2.30. DP. £5.20. CSP. £8.38. NRs: Hawksley HB, Utmost Zesi. Trio: £7.00. 3.60: 1. SEA VICTOR (K Darley) 7-2;

> 4.28: 1. HILANIA (K Darley) 2-1 fav; 2. ledium Refurtive 5-2; 3. Ground Game 3-1.12 ran. 4, 6. (P Walnyn, Lambourn). Poles: E.2.90; £1.30, £1.30, DF. £3.40, CSP. £7.48. NR: Bear To Dance, Tric: £2.20. Land Co. No. 1 (1998) 100 E2.20.
>
> 4,55: 1. NEEP YOUR DISTANCE (Derley) 2-1 far; 2. Per's Splendour 9-1; 3. Hearts La Vista 4-1.13 cm. 1, rk. (Ms M Reeley, Settum), toler 22.60; 21.30, 21.80, 21.80. Dr. £13.40. GSP. £19.28. Tricast £62.13. Tio: £16.80.

Incipot: £5,638.10. Placepot: £18.80. Quadpot: £17.30. Place 6: £17.35. Place 5: £8.98. LUDLOW LEC: 1. LET'S GET LOST (A P MCCoy)

9-1; 2, Schmazie 4-5 fav. 3, Layhum Low 7-2, 7 ma. 7, Va. (I A Harts, Southwell). Rote: 59-30; £2-30, £1-40, DF: £5-20, GSP; £16-51, NR: Lady Brayfax. 2. True Bird 10-1; 3. Finlangen 11-8 for. 6 ram, 1½, rk. () L. Harrs, Melton Mondray, Tota: £3.70; £2.50, £2.70. DP. £22.00. CSP: £28.63. 2.20: 1. WEST ORDERT (G Hogen) 7-2;
2. Wears 6-4 Ex; 3. Turplat's Green 4-1;
7 nm. 2, 9. (O O'Nell, Chetenfam). Rose:
E7-30; £3.10, £2.30. DF; £10.40. CSP:
£9.19. Theast: £19.37. NF; Mebihul, withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 opplies to bess
at board prices prior to withdrawel, not to SP
bets, deduction 15p in the pound.

2.55: 1. ROLLING THE BONES (A P MCCO) 6-4 far, 2. 18th Soreon 14-1; 2. Scients Martine 15-8, 7 ran. 1/4, 2/2, (P Felgats, Melton Monbrey). Total: £2.10: £1.60, £3.30. DF; £11.20. CSP. £20.17, Titcsst: £39.12. NR: Watcht Lad.

7-2; 2. Maggets Groen 11-4 (nr. 3, Rep-ples 5-1, 11 ren. 14, 29. (N Groeno, Lari-bourn), Toba: £4,80; £1,80,£1,70,£1,80, £5,10,CSP; £12,51, Bleast £41,16, Inc.

4.35: 1. LUKE OF LOUGHREA OF DATE WOODY 2-7 Lav. 2. Grey Smoote 7-2.3. Hel-haum Tern 10-1. 3 ross. 1/4. 30. (K Bustry, Embourn). Total: £1.10. OF: £1.10. CSF: £1.66.

BETTENS: 4-5 Bortone, 5-4 Captain Medive, 33-1 Wave Hill.

added 3YO 2m

12 MOUTY (23) (D) (BF) C Marin 11 5 _R December 34 ASKENG (23) J Bennett 11 0 L Harve FOLDINGEER R O'Sullivan 11 0 D O'Sulliva

SHADY DEED J HEIS 10 9.... WINDLA P Howing 10 9

- .u. consumed -BETTING: 3-1 Austain, 9-2 Daily Starlight,5-1 Vilcoran Bay, 6-1 Wight Time, 10-1 Mally, Zingliour, Slandy Deed, 12-1 Hard Love, 18-1 others

5.05 NORTH MIDLAND HANDICAP CHASE £6,000 2m 1f 110yds

- u uncurrer -Minimum weight 10st. True handicap weight Carlingland Lights 9st 12th.

5.40 RICHARDSONS PROPERTIES MAID-EN HURDLE £3,500 2m 110yds

MAIN ERACE K Burks 4 10 11 A Larrect (3) PICKET PIECE D Nicholson 4 10 11 ... W Mar KINNESAD KED R Ingam 6 10 7 D Sala C/O MADAM ROSE (29) J Muline 5 10 7

3.25: 1 MR ENTERTAINER (Nº M RICHAL)

4-150. 4. SERBOUS DANGER (I F Tittey)
4-1; 2. Golden Madjambo 6-1; 3. Britansia Miles 20-1. 7 ram. 5-4 tow Red Visionan
(440. 2. srif-hd. (Miss H Kright, Wardlage),
Teles 25.00; £3.00, £2.00, Dr. £15.40 CSF£25.62, friess: £376.46, NR: Forgettul.

5.05:1. MAGSLAD (A Roche) 7-2; 2. Gone For Lunch 3-1; 3. Blaze Basley 5-2 to, 11 ran, sht-ho, 1. U JO Neil, Ponrah), Tota: 54,30; £1,70, £1,70, £1,20, DF; £7,40, CSP. £14.09, Tho: £8,40.

Bahri to lift Dunlop to the summit Hern warmed RICHARD EDMONDSON appended to them. This may be why the Londoner is decamp-

The Champion Stakes at Newmarket this afternoon is likely to provide the defining moment in this year's trainers' championship. If Bahri finishes in the first three, as he must surely do, then the man who prepares him, John Dunlop, will leapfrog Saeed Bin Suroor at the head of the table.

If he does not, then the championship question will be left open, as will another pertinent point, does Saeed Bin Surpor actually train the Godolphin horses and should it be his name in the record books?

When Simon Crisford, the Godolphin racing manager, is asked who prepares the Dubaiwintered squad he says it is a team effort in which Bin Suroor plays a strong role. Sheikh Monammed himself gives a reply which suggests he has been comparing notes with Crisford. But when Jeremy Noseda, another member of the unit, is tackled there is mumbling and the shuffling of feet.

It is accepted, and vocalised, by everyone but the Godolphin management that Noseda, John Gosden's former assistant, is the key training figure. Bin Suroor, who replaced Hilal Ibrahim as Godolphin's trainer this year, may be more than a figurehead, but it is also true that he is a beneficiary of Sheikh Mohammed's insistence that Godolphin's named trainer is a Dubaian.

All this must irk Noseda as horses he has trained, and perhaps a championship, will go on

2.20 Babinda

3.00 Top Cees

3.35 Brave Edge

GOING: Good to Firm

ing to set up a yard in California after the Breeders' Cup.

It leaves the conundrum that if Noseda was so influential in this year's Godolphin batch, what will happen to the class of '96 who will be returned to these shores next season? Expect a new signing for the Emirates team in the coming weeks.

While staff may be needed. team Maktouro certainly does not need help in the thorough-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: New Reputation NB: Bahri (Newmarket 4.15)

bred division. Once again the boys dominate a Group One race in today's Champion, with Bahri and Tamure among the front-runners.

The latter has had just one horse finish ahead of him in five lifetime starts and that was a useful little thing called Lammtarra. Bahri has been something of a bounty hunter himself this season, tucking several scalps under his breast-girth, including, most notably, Ridgewood Pearl, at Ascot last time out. It may be instructive that the only beast to have beaten him twice this season, is a machine that has its cover zipped on at the moment, a horse called Celtic Swing.

Victory for Tamure would be satisfactory in one sense as it would provide a victory for Walter Swinburn substituting for Lanfranco Dettori, who deto the scroll without his name cided not to appeal against a 10-

NEWMARKET

GOING: Good to Firm

STALLS: 1.45, 2.20 - centre; 3.00 - far side; remainder - stands side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Blight-hand course with 1m 2f straight.

Blacerourse is south-west of town on A1304. Bus link from Cambridge and Neumarket runbay stations (served by London, Liverpool Street). ADMISSION: Club 523 (16 to 25-peur-olds 510); Grandstand & Paddock 511 (18 to 25-year-olds 58); Silver Eng 55. CAR PARK: Members 51; remainder free.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH KUNNERS: J Gooden — 57 winners from 365 runners gives a success rule of 15.0% and a loss to s £1 level stake of £47.50; R Esamou — 54 winners, 579 runners, 9.30%, ~£219.55; L Cutenard — 43 winners, 305 runners, 14.1%, ~51%, 64; B IIIIlls — 37 winners, 113 runners, 11.5%, ~517.54.

ELEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery — 109 winners, 537 rides, 20.3%, ~554.56; L Dettori — 80 winners, 566 rides, 14.1%, ~£135.11; W 2 Swinsbura — 54 winners, 415 rides, 15.4%, +59.26; W Carross — 64 winners, 533 rides, 12%, ~591.51.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Missty 80ks (1.45); Shadhrwan (3.00); Midwick Onckoo 1/50x (5.2%).

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Bromon (3.00) has been sent 384 miles by Thomas Dyer 1.45 ROTHMANS ROTALS NORTH SOUTH FINAL HANDICAP

2.20 HOUGHTON CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS B) £12,000 added 2YO 7/ Penalty Value £7,805

3 SABNOA (23) (Saved Mostro) C Shitas S 12
C Masteria (18) (Dero Que Rocard L Cuman 8 12
SAMRAAN (USA) (N M-Hacher) J Durko 8 12
1 MICHT (14) (D) (S Mazzi) R Harmon 8 10
MADAME "TENLEN (S) (Sr En Paries) B Hills 6 7.

BETTING: 2-1 Wight, 9-4 Seneman, 7-2 Babbada, 9-1 Madama Stokshou, 8-1 Migner 1994: Smart Alec 2 8 12 J Waster 4-5 (L Canacta) 6 an FORM GUIDE

4.15 BAHRI (nap) 4.45 Royale Figurine 5.20 Mullitover



Alhaerth strides clear of Danehill Dancer and Tagula (left) in yesterday's Dewhurst Stakes Photograph: Adam Scott

day suspension yesterday. When the roles were reversed the Italian collected a King George and an Arc on Lammtarra. However, the speed of Bahri (next best

15) should prove decisive. It is a measure of the Arabs' escalating domination that their one-time foe in the equine flesh markets, Robert Sangster, is now reduced to comparatively snuffling around for scraps. Sangster is doubly represented in the Cesarewitch, by Top Cees, who has used up more newsprint than the average budgie cage this season, and New Reputation.

The knives were out metaph orically for Top Cees after his controversial Chester Cap success in May and the steel has subsequently been produced all too tangibly for the five-year-old,

who now goes to post a gelding. His every move has been scrutinised by the bookmakers in the run-up to the race, which may have been a decoy move by Sangster, His other runger was third in the race last year and his trainer, Barry Hills, was also placed the previous season with Ritto. NEW REPUTA-TION (nap 3.00) should win.

FORM GUIDE

FORM CUIDE

John White has won this marathon with Ashesylad and IMAD is fancied to follow suit, with the ground similar to that at Goodwood in July when he had Salamans four lengths behard. A slow pace was blamed for Salaman's delete there, but the selection must be in with a fine chance of beating him again on 3to better terms. Many will see the Doncaster race won by Grey Shot as the key to the outcome. Saleed ran as though wenting this type of top when a fighting nack second and Top Cees was a most pleasing fourth on his first run for over two months, after being gelded. That form is certainly decert, as Grey Shot went on so best Court of Honour at Longchamp. It is rand to knock Top Cees, so impressive when winning the Chester Cup and only 2th worse off with the fourth then, New Reputation. Bought by Robert Sangster after Chester, Top Cees is going to be hard to best with that wented outing beldind him. New Reputation is also owned by Sangster and was a staying on third to Capitain's Guest in the Cesarewitch 12 months ago. He may not be good anough with only Shongara's Way (whose trainer is attempting the Auturnn Double after Cap Juliura's Cambridgeshire victory) show him in the handlean. Thork Vert, a stablemate of New Reputation, has a feether weight with Mett Henry booked. He is untried at the trip but has some pace shout bim and was hampeared when sense lengths behind Saleel at Doncaster prior to his Ayr win four weeks ago. Shadinwas has been below per of late but today's first-time behinds to could make the difference. He showed he gets the trip when finishing fourth to the sesson. Blaza Away, at home on feet ground and with both wirs this sesson being gained the hard way from the front, may be the best outsider.

Selection: IMAD.

	ing.	gained t	he hard way from the front, may be the bast outsider. Sale	ction: IMAD.
	3	3.35	OLIVIER DOUIEB MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS B) £15,000 added 5f Penalty Value £9,925	G4
	1	143003	BRANE EDGE (21) (D) (Mrs NJ Peett) R Hennon 4 9 7	Pat Eddery 10
	ž	357010		_M Hoberts 1
•	3	405100	NOCK SYNETHONY (56) (D) (Max C E Riester) W Heages 58 12	M RMs.6
	4	211503	JOHN ART (USA) (15) (Herntler: Al Makeyum) J Donlop 3 8 11	_W Carreon 11
	5	605130	TAKADOU (7) (CD) & Tylosdey) Mess L Scidel 4 8 11	Yiomer 3
	6	060546	SASSEDO (USA) (7) (CD) (S Planck) W O'Gomen 5 8 10	5 محمد البي لي
	7		SHOWING (48) (D) (Mrs T Stack) T Stack (F) 489	
	8	0-00125	PALACEBRIE JACK (14) (5) (Palacegna) Corporation Ltd) J Surry 4 8 9	G Carler 4
	9		ZVORDY'S DANCER (USA) (7) (D) (John Presch Barry) E Alebon 4 8 9	
	10		MR BERGERAC (12) FOY P R Joint B Print 487	
	11		CROFT POOL (23) (II) (Countywelle Classes Limited) J Glover 487	
	12	000000	ASHRIMA (7) (CD) (As S A Jojnet B Petro 10 8 7	MicCabe (5) 7
			- 22 0023494 -	

	1.45 ROTHMANS ROTALS NORTH SOUTH FINAL HANDICAP (CLASS B) £40,000 added 1m Penalty Value £29,570	10 191030 NR BERGERAC (12) (0) (P.R. Jorn) B Palmy 4 B 7
	1 315310 BAND ON THE RUN (21) (2) (3) (3) (3) Alaci B McMarton 8 100	12 000000 ASRRIMA (7) (CD) (Na S A Joynet & Perce 19 8 7
	2 312406 CELESTRAL CHOIR (14) (D) Rains Carole Sylend) L Gree 5 9 0	Minimum weight: 4yo and older Bat 7th, 3yo Bat 6th, True handkap weights: Croit Pool Bat 5th, Ashiban
	3 1:13000 CRUMETON HULL (14) (D) (TH Checkey) N Genham 3 8:13Pat Eddary 9 500002 COUNTRY LOVER (25) (D) (Str Gordon Bunton) Lord Hustengton 4 8:11 N Hills 24	Bit 3th. BETTING: 7-2 Brave Edge, 9-2 Jamiest, 5-1 Rock Symphory, 7-1 Don't Worry Me, 8-1 Sessedo.
	5 160550 SYCNE RIDGE (28) (b) (Ars Cars Harrigton) R Hannon 3 8 10Dene (716) (5) 21	10-1 Princetale lack, 12-1 others
	6 301550 CLIFFOR FOX (35) (D) (P and S Permestra) J Glover 389	1994: Mater Jokson 5 8 8 R Cochrane 9-2 (R Hodges) 10 mm
	7 162-110 SAFRIN (26) (CD) (Mai L Hauss) D Mons 6 8 9 R Cochrano 1 12-2001 SHEWERCLA (12) (D) (Mrs Alson Res) Mrs J Ramsden 3 8 9 K Fallon 7	FORM GUIDE BRAVE EDGE is a proven sprinter when humains a but weight on a still track and he's tak-
	3 02:1210 APOLLOND (28) (Ö) Ü K Ruggies & Mrs A R Ruggies) J Fanskane 3 8 8 Memissa 2	en to be no to the task once more, now that he stable back in form. The selection, not
	I IN 150105, MA RETOR AND MEE (28) IDLIK P Securi W Jacob 3 8 8	besten far in the Stawards' Cup, is in a slightly sesier grade after his latest fine third to
	11 216000 PRIDE OF PEROLE (7) (0) (As Linds Miles) D Nachols 5 8 8	Spaniards Close at Ascot with Seesade and Ashtina behind him. Don't Worry Me is rep- ov and has her ideal ground. She must have claims after contesting some hot conditions
	13 113400 IDVORSE PROFESS (7) (S) Contrary Andrews M Common 5.8.7	ny and nes his west grown, one mass have been with hig weights in a weaker grade. He
	14 420120 ROSH DE COOL (28) (0) (R.F. Nibo) R.Akehurst 4.8.7 T Quina 12	is weighted to reverse Haydock form with Croft Pool but does not look good enough on his
	15 111121 SCARABEN (20) (30) (3 Evrunt) 5 Kettevet 7 8 6	Portiand showing. Valuaded, badly drawn at Agent last Saturday, won here last backend and is back with Jason Weaver after besting Lucky Parkes on unfavourable terms at Newcastle
	17 010030 SIPROS (12) (b) (the Desping Company Limited) C Billian 3 B 1	three outings ago. Rock Symptony seems best at sta furiongs, but Secwing is interesting
	19 00-2260 EASY ET (POL) 220 (Com Perinester) Lord Huntington 381	 her trainer, Tommy Stack, has tasted victory on this course in the past.
	19 000602 MISTY SELIS (5) (D) (EP) (P E Aucr) M Ryon 5 7 13	Selection: BRAVE EDGE.
	1 14 244400 MANA PISAN PISAN PISAN PISAN PISAN DENGAN MENUNUNUNUNUNUNUNUNUNUNUNUNUNUNUNUNUNUNU	4.15 DUBAI CHAMPION STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 1) C4
	22 300-02 CEE-MY-RY (4) (5) (Rehard Infe) J Beny 8 7 7	£175,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £179,520
	23 405160 NOBLE NEPPUNE (22) (AD) (Mrs Rea Brown) W Masson 3 7 7	1 50-3040 BONTONNERT FREIDO (84) (C) (D) (M J Gredley) C Battain 7 9 2
	_ 24 deciared -	2 132114 GERMANY (USA) (20) (D) (D) (D) (D) (D) (D) (D) (D) (D) (D
	Minimum weight: 7st 7tb. True handicap weights: Cee-Jay-ly 7st 5tb. Hobbe Neptune 7st 1/b, Pine Ridge	4 634312 SMHA, (USA) (36) (D) (Hamdan Al Malahum) D Modey 3.8.10
	List 6st 12th. SETTING: 7-1 Scarabon, 8-1 Mo-Addah, 9-1 Country Lover, 10-1 Colestial Choic, 12-1 Misty Silts,	5 220121 MONTOOY (USA) (RO) (D) (Sir George Majorick) P Cole 3 8 10
	Spinerolia, 14-1 Compton Hill, 16-1 others	7 1-1102 SPECTRUM (27) Bord Weinstock & Scrool Weinstock P Charges-Hum 3 8 10
) 1994: Chancur 6 8 4 J Quann 33-1 (E Alston) 23 rain	8 11121 THANKE (27) (C) (C) (Shelin Mohammed) J Gosden 3 8 1D
	FORM GUIDE CLIFTON FOX ments some regard after his two runs following a mid-seeson rest. Very game	- 8 decimed - BETENG: 9-4 Rajet, 5-2 Tamure, 7-2 Shouler, 4-1 Spectrum, 12-1 Fated, 16-1 Supremy, 20-1 Mont-
	when bothon the top that it is procing in May the selection is well will use up their day-	los, 66-1 Excitorate Flori
	I some and the could be a social the 7th When 1977 In Scholand Hi New Could in Mir.	1994: Demar Empereur 4 9 4 S Quifot 8-1 (A Fabre, France) 8 cm
	gust. Beaten about four lengths, he meets Scaraben on 12th better terms. Citton Fox, out a formight later at Doncaster on ground that was too soft for him, was well bester behind	FORM CLIDE BAKETS and attempt beyond a mile resulted in a second to Halling in the International
	I Count Courte of the last area do not be NAMED TOTAL ON THE SERVICE. SCHOOL HER ALL WIT MAY	States over this journey at York. He has since thrashed the classy filly Ridgewood Pearl with
	again today, though old make such as Celestial Chair and Master Bevelod were close be- again today, though old make such as Celestial Chair and Master Bevelod were close be-	an inspired ride from Wiltie Carson in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes (1m) at Ascot and this opposition may lack the speed to contain him from the dip. Spectrum had a length in hand
	band on the Commercial Analysis and Application for the State of the S	of the selection when winning the insh 2,000 Guineas and returned to form when Deaten
		a nack when conceding 7th to Tamure at Long-temp four weeks ago. The ground was very
	is offputing. Criestal Chor, dequalified other trotting up from Mo-Addab and Pride Of Pea- se at Pontetact last month, has to be considered on her latest start, fifth to Cap Julius	soft then so Tamure may have the edge again, judged on his fast-ground record, notably his second in the Derby. Germany is a class performer but seems more at home with some
5	THE STANDARD OF STANDARD OF STANDARD WITH STANDARD STANDA	cut in the ground, while Rhyadian has looked very good since the Derby but the fast ground
-	THE CALL PARTY OF PARTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE PARTY OF T	over this trip could find into out. The Derby fourth Pakell has his favoured trip and ground but should not be good enough to best Bahri. Selection: SAHRI.
	with his courty of thirteening bodies not act in the mud. Back in favour with an impres- nan cun be ground because he does not act in the mud. Back in favour with an impres- seo win from Eur Ahead and Seventeens Lucky (York winner last Saturday) of Provinsiant 12	
		4.45 BEDFORD LODGE HOTEL BENTINCK STAKES C4
	with Country Lover on this taster ground, not retire Augustian was a provincing that it have	(CLASS A) (Listed) £20,000 added of Penalty Value £14,068
	Newbury rice and size can also do beats of the bas never won on ground as fast as this. Dub; secars blinkers for the first time, though she has never won on ground as fast as this.	1 300100 DOUBLE BLDE (20) (CD) (R W Huggins) M Johnston 8 8 13
	Selection: CLIFTON FOX.	2 4-11556 EL VISAF (16) Oki School House Rector Lab C Allen 7 8 13
	THE PARTY OF THE P	3 031004 HELLO MISTER (7) (C) (D) (Street Mister) J O'Donograe 48 13
	12 20 HOUGHTON CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS B)	4 621000 PERHAR (15) (C) Slast P Roces) Barries 4813 Quinn 9

		Value 114,068	
1	300100	DOUBLE BLUE (20) (CD) (R W Huggins) M Johnston 8 8 13	' Yipeser 3
2	4-11556	EL YASAF (16) (Old School House Recing Ltd) C Allen 7 8 13	6 Carter 2
3	031004	HELLO MESTER (7) (C) (D) (Brign Materi) J O'Donoghue 48 13	P MgCabe 6
Ā	8-21000	PORNE (16) (C) (Max P Rovers) Barles 48 13	Quina 9
5	636221	FEDERN FLY (36) (D) Puts Chas Hardington) R Hannon 4 8 13	"Pat Eddery 12
8	123403	SAMIT EXPRESS (17) (0) (8F) (0) S Hall Mrs M Reveloy 5 8 13	K Daday 8
7	214111	ROTABEL (USA) (35) (D) (Maldourn A) Maldourn) E Duntop 3 8 11	R Selebum 10
Ė	13,1335	STYLISH WIRES (100) (D) (BF) (Molecu Racing) 6 Wagg 3 8 11.	K HEL-5
ē	630421	ROSALE PROURSEE (28) (2) (Cong Province) M Fetherator-Godley 488	
10	562021	DOCTOR'S CLORY (USA) (US) (CD) (Charley Park Stud) R Harmon 386.	
ũ	160121	SOUTH ROCK (21) (B H Part) J Glover 3 8 6	S D Williams 11
12	100325	WANTED STAR (36) (Stephen Crose) 8 Has 3 8 6	R 196 1
_		- 12 decized -	

BETTIME 3-1 Royale Figurine, 4-1 lictures 1, 7-1 Double Blue, Hello Mister, Whening Star, 10-1 Indian Fty. Salat Express, 14-1 Doctor's Story, Stylish Wayer, 20-1 others
1994: Bluta At 3 8 6 R Hits 6-1 of Thomson Joney 11 can
FOURME FIGURINE commot be faulted on her lawset three starts and may have too much of
a thinking lick for Double Blue. The warner of the Ayr Gold Cup last time, she holds Salat.
Express on her short head second to Clayerne Spirt on the July Course. Double Blue freets
Royale Figurine on smaller terms to a handicap and his latest officer, within five lengths of
Cool lazz in the Oladem at Ascot, was another good run. He is 16th better with Hello Mister on Portland form, though the latter ran a cracker sit the weights when louth to Coastal
Buff at Ascot last Saturday when the ground was soler than he likes. Returnel has improved a lot and should hold his own in this company after defying a big weight at Goodwood, while Warning Star is a possibility on her favoured ground, udded on her Sandown
that to Burty Boo.

5.20 NeK SPARK PLUGS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 7f Penaity Value £6,732

num weight: 7st 7m. Twe handcap weight: Moujeen fist 13th. Agentum wager for the tot annuary wager modes of the Second State of the Second Secon

10-1 Pithent, Desgru or service 13-2 C Welly 28 cm
1994: Polich Admiral 3 9 10 L Descri 13-2 C Welly 28 cm
1994: Polich Admiral 3 9 10 L Descri 13-2 C Welly 28 cm
1994: Polich Admiral 3 9 10 L Descri 13-2 C Welly 28 cm
1994: Polich Admiral 3 9 10 L Descri 13-2 C Welly 28 cm
1994: Polich Admiral 3 9 10 L Descri 13-2 C Welly 28 cm
1994: Polich Admiral 14-2 C Welly 28 cm
1995: Policy 1994: Policy 1995: Polic

0040 PRIDE OF KASHMIR (11) P Harris 7 9 ______ F Norton 16 255041 NAPOLEON'S RETURN (11) (D) G M Moore 7 8 JN Adams 15 2.05 II Doria 2.40 Once More For Luck 3.15 Ec-centric Dancer 3.50 Dwingeloo 4.25 Super Rocky 4.55 Cliburnel News 5.30 Mbutwa 3.50 SOUR BECK CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 240 5f

GOING: Good to firm. STALLS: Inside, except 6f - outside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5d. Eleft-hand course, machining and sharp. Not suitable for the long-stricting horse. Burn-in 240yds.

Eleft-hand course, machining and sharp. Not suitable for the long-stricting horse. Burn-in 240yds.

Eleft-hand suitable for the long-stricting suitable fo

BUNICERED FIRST TIME: Arrhythmic (3.50); Lepise (4.25). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Night Wink (5.30) won at Leicester on Monday, Mindwa (5.30) won at Redcar on Trurscay.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNIERS: Johnyro (2.05) has been sent 280 miles by W.Turner from Corton Deuham, Somerset; Dwingsloo (3.50) and Thatcheretha (4.25) leave been sent 273 miles by D. Chappelrom Whitsburg, Hampshire; Poly By Stantian (2.05), Miletrian Refinot (3.50), Domicksky (4.25) and Morocco (5.30) have been sent 755 miles by M. Chapper from Deuham Lenborg 18.

2.05 EBF PROSPECT HILL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 270 5f O GREEN BARRIES (SI) M Johnston 9 0 ...

JIVE BABY (62) M Bycott 9 0 ...

222005 JOHNWOO (14) W G M Tunde 9 0 ...

CO PRINCEY AFRIE (16) M Bel 9 0 ...

OS BI HOH (31) M Bel 8 9 ... * REED YOU BACK? (16) S Woods 8 9 ______ W Woods 14
30 POLAR REFINAN (14) Ms J Ramastan 8 9 ______ M Deering 9
00002 POUR ST SEMIAN (15) M CHARMON 8 9 ______ W Newers 13
05 QUEENS CREEK (20) Mes J Case 8 9 _____ S Webster 15
000 SAMDELASTER (116) Ms J Ramaden 8 9 _____ N Consorten 5
0005 SWIPT NETY (14) J Beny 8 9 ______ M Cadele 1
05 TANISA (USA) (16) H Thorson Jones 8 9 _____ G Definial 10
TIME TO TANISO G M Moore 8 9 _____ Deen McKnown 8

– 15 deciared – SETTING: 9-2 II Dorin, 6-1 Need the Badly, 7-1 Poly By Stanfan, Hi Hob 10-1 Johnyro, Talys, 12-1 others

		-
2	2.40	PLODMIRE WOOD CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,650 added 1m 4f
1	131502	LATVAN (19) (CD) RASIO 8946 Dolland 1
2	222303	ONCE MORE FOR LUCK (8) Nas M Rendey 4 9 2 A Culture (
3	0-00340	MOOFAU (65) F Watson 4 8 11
4	2-00	ADMIONIDO RISA) (16) P Kelenay 3 8 10 Dean McKeone 4
5	0-40040	BAROSEG (88) J L Haros 48 10
6	000400	GREEK BOLD (21) D Nichols 68 10
7	5080-00	LE TEMERARIE (64) (D) Don Eroco Inosa 989 _10m Tinider 9
8	015603	GOODENE MELLIE (19) (C) (D) J L Eye 5 8 6 R Lappin 11
9	005066	SALLYOREALLY (26) W Storey 4 8 4
10	00-0	HERE COURS PERSE (46) W Story 3 8 1 P Fersey (5) 7
		- 10 declared -
眍	THE: 5-2	Once Mere For Lock, 3-1 Latvian, 4-1 Goodbye Millio, 8-1

3	3.15	CAMP PLANTATION NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 7f
1	421064	TOO FMSTY (20) (CD) (BF) M H Ensterby 9 7
2	3310	TAXERUM BOY (22) (D) P Hants 9 4
3		SHONTPUNE (28) M Johnston 9 4
4	326624	SAFEEE CARE (LES) C Well 9 D
5	6310	WORLDWIDE ELSE (114) R Hans 8 10 Bathrate 18
6	630041	GOLDER POND (12) R Johnson Houghton 8 9 A McGlone 4
7	16350	ROYAL CELUDH (29) Datys Smath 8 7C Teagles (5) 9
8	403	ECCENTIFIC DANCER (11) M Beeby 8 5
9	3265	JUICY (18) W Hagges 8 5 W Woods 1
10	410000	GLADYS AETHORPE (12) (C) J L Eyra 8 4
11		ANCESTRAL JANE (18) Mrs J Ramsden 8 3 Carroll 17
12		DISTANT STORM (53) (D) M Bel 8 1
13		SEDER WELCOME (11) (D) M H Essenty 8 0 S Makeney 8
14	233130	VESHCA LADY (11) (CD) E Weymes 8 0
15		SERIOUS TRUST (35) Sr Mark Prescott 8 0 G Deffield 20
16	500454	MOONCUSSER (17) J Fragerati 8 0 Stephen Dardes 10

WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION

more than a rug over his knees and pikelets at the fireside to keep him roasting. He will also have the warm thoughts of Alhaarth, writes Richard Ed-

by Alhaarth

The temperature at Kingwood House stables will seem a few degrees higher than normal as the Major contemplates yet another Classic victory following his colt's three-and-a-half length demolition of Danehill Dancer in yesterday's Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket

"It was a great performance," Hern said with some understatement. "This will help us through the winter. He must be one of the best two-year-old colts I have had. I can't remember a better one. We will take things one step at a time but obviously he will be aimed at the 2,000 Guineas." Ladbrokes offer 2-1.

These are odds which Geof-

4.25 CROW HOLE BANK HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 5f

7st 5lb., Black Boy 6st 7fb. BETTRIC: 7-1 histoier Tradec, Domichsky, 8-1 Super Hoeley, Polly Particoar. Lasty Shortff, 10-1 Here Comes A Star, 12-1 others

4.55 THIEVES GILL LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,650 added 1m 5f 175yds

1 612300 DIAMOND CROWN (11) M Wane 4 9 6 _______ J Carroll 6
2 Q.QO-0 BOLD JONES (95) G Dirityd 4 9 4 ______ J Lone 3
3 Q-QO-1 SOLD JONES (95) G Dirityd 4 9 1 ______ J Lone 3
4 051440 CLESURWEL NEWS (4) A Streeter 5 8 13 ______ D Denby (7) 2
5 ______ PEPP 0 DRY (9) (7) J Ly 4 8 13 ______ R Lappin 5
6 303450 NEWER TIME (22) Mrs V Acontey 3 8 9 ______ A Callatine 4
9ECTING: 7-4 CENernel News, 3-1 Denament Crown, 5-1 Newer Time, 6-1
Zanzasa, 7-1 Puep 0 Day, 8-1 Bold Johan

5.30 'CLOSE OF PLAY' HANDICAP (CLASS E)

– 20 doctored – BETTING: 6-1 Mindre, 8-1 Mid Ory, Morocco, 10-1 Might Wink, Prime Lare, 14-1 Superco, Kindergarton Boy, 16-1 Others

563 KALFABOR (112) D Havdn Jones 3 9 5.....

222251 KND ORY (22) (0) P Calver 4 9 12.

250400 KENESHA (30) D Notan 5 7 7 ______ C Ad 000000 SLNOVEZ (52) M Heaton-Bis 5 7 7 _Amenda Ser

As he sits through the white months, Dick Hern will have more than a rug over his knees frey Gibbs, the senior handicapper, will be urging those in his orbit to take. "It was a very authoritative performance." he said yesterday. "I would rate him around 125 and expect him to win the 2,000 Guineas off "at figure. To be a great horse you have to pass three examinations. Alhaarth has passed the first, Lammtarra passed the second but failed to sit the third."

It was a warming day also for Willie Carson, Alhaarth's jockey, who had earlier steered the return to form of Bint Salsabil in the Rockfel Stakes. The beautifully bred filly is now 16-1 favourite for the Oaks.

Carson's good humour in the weighing room may not have been appreciated by Michael Roberts and Richard Quinn who had less propitious afternoons. The former was thrown from Dixiemelody, who broke a leg and had to be destroyed, in the concluding event, while Quinn may share Carson's Stirling birthplace, but he does not possess his fellow Scot's current good fortune.

Quinn's efforts on Lap Of Luxury in the Darley Stakes were considered to have involved unreasonable frequency with the whip and he was suspended for two days.

New bet on show

A new bet is introduced today by Ladbrokes that will pay a third of the odds each-way and in certain races half the odds

But before you rush to the cashpoint to stock up for your afternoon's foray, the "Win & Show" bet pays out only on a horse that finishes first or second in any race with eight or more runners. Successful punters will be paid a third of the win odds, rising to a half in handicaps with 16 or more runners.

The bet has been launched instead of a Jackpot-type wager to compete with the Lottery.



2.20: BABINDA shaped well on his debut and should improve over an extra furiong today.

3.00: TOP CEES proved his stamina with a sensational win in the Chester Cup, following a much-He has changed owners and been gelded since, returning from a break to run a highly promising fourth to Grey Shot (Group win-ner since) and Saleel, with Torch Vert (also a winner since) fifth. They renew rivalry on the same terms, but the selection should be primed for success today. Saleel is a progressive sort, but has yet to demonstrate his ability to stay this distance and his experience in handicaps is limited - a com-bination which has been the undoing of fancied three-year-olds in this event in recent years. Last season's third, New Reputation, is fairly weighted but will not find the fast ground ideal. Sea Freedom is still a maiden, but should like the test of stamina and is well treated on his running against the long-time fancy for this, Istabraq.

3.35: The consistent BRAVE EDGE remains weighted to win.

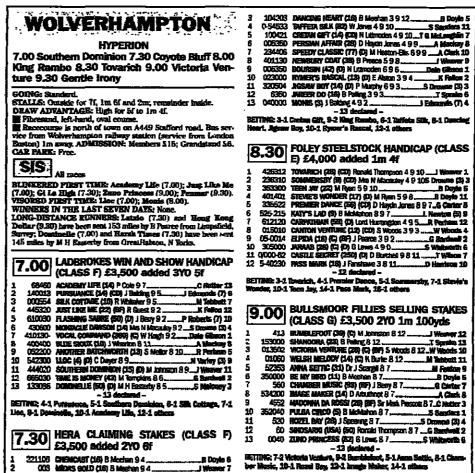
4.15: RAFIRL who has scored two impressive Group One wins, is tried again at 10 furlongs after his York second. His free-running his York second. His free-running energies are now channelled to positive effect and should give him the edge over the Derby second, Tamure, at this distance. Riyadian, too, may not be best served by the drop back in trip and has yet to win on ground faster than good. Spectrum, who beat Bahri in Ireland but flopped at Epsom, has form only in falsely run races.

4.45: The Ayr Gold Cup winner, ROYALE FRGURINE, can step up to Listed success in a field which is thin on six-furlong performers.

THE INDEPENDENT **Horse Racing** Results 0839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111 175



1994: : Imart Alec 2 8 12 J Washer 4-5 (L Cursard 6 ran Forest GUEDE
This race is not up to its usual standard and the clue could be the market support for BABBH. As on this ground of Portlettact. Backed from 10-1 down to 4-1, he can like a stage in their as Seriationak over that madequals shi furings and there was a big gap back to the fourth. John Duntop's newcomer Semman, a son of Green Dencer releted to winness over this trip, John Duntop's newcomer Semman, a son of Green Dencer releted to winness over this trip, World have the fur considered. Barry hills takes the unusual step of turning Mademas Selables. World have the first over this trip, and there is no Paul Cole's newcomer Oleans at Leleaster on Monday, but her debut run at Ascot was tall of promise and hiss won with the filly Craised against the coles of laydock on themessay. Wight could be anything after a soft-ground win at San Sino in a race for unimed idless. Containly her presence here suggests Romaid Hannon holds her in a race for unimed idless. Containly her presence here suggests Romaid Hannon holds her in Sonio regard. Listo Cumon has a decent ground in this race so his Bigharr, out of useful some grant country, uncertile Pick Of The Pops, is fishely to be better than his debut showing behind Assentions Basinoba.
3.00 TOTE CESAREWITCH HANDICAP (CLASS B) 550,000 added 2m 2f Penalty Value £46,170
1 153-202 SHONURES WAY (14) (C) Oles Alexandra / Charles A C Service 4 9 10
3.42141 NEW REPURCION (ZZ) (C) IN C SANGARD STALL TO STALL TO SANGARD STAL
3 002000 PISTOL RIVER (21) HOLL GREET IN WARREN S. O. 4.3 March 1
4 104443 STAR RASE (7) U David Agent in All Printers S R 44 9 December (5) 3
5 11:3140 SUM OF SPRING (ND) (Mrs P Sherecold) when 9 8 11 W Ryes 18 6 503160 BLAZE MANY (MSA) (109 (Paul Medion) Bolong 4 8 11 W Ryes 18 6 503160 BLAZE MANY (MSA) (109 (Paul Medion) Bolong 5 8 11 W Ryes 18 7 M Res
G 503160 BLAZE AMON (USA) (19) (Paul Medico) I Borong 4 5 12
7 0 65103 TOP CEES (56) (D) (R E Sangser) MS 1 Renewer 5 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
8 02712 SAUTEL (38) (86) (Sheek Afroed Al Madourin A control of the Tolling 12 9 714000 SHADIRMAN (21) (Chre Bed) R Method 48 5 8 Cockerse 6
9 214000 SHADIRMAN (21) (Dire Bot) R Metrus 4815 384 R Cockeres 6 10 203120 SHOWNG MESH (47) OAS Nath Burnil J During 384 R Cockeres 6
10 2-03120 SHORMS HIGH (47) ONS Nam Burney J During 3 8 1 W Carnon 30 11 51131 SALAMAN (FT) (53) (3) (10) Coten J During 3 8 1 SEction 7 7 13 Section 7
11 511131 SALAMAN FTO (SS) (27 Losy Cohen) J Duning 3 9 1 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
12 200-310 ROBERTY LEA (12) (Nortestal Cord Utyleing 1 1 12 2 1 Nortestal Cord Utyleing 1 1 1 1 2 1 Nortestal Cord Utyleing 1 1 1 1 3 63-401 SEA HELEDOM (8) Dates B Sweet G Backing 4 7 12 2 Nortestal C Thomas 6 7 11 A Madday 15
13 63-403 SEA FREEDOM (8) Mass 8 Swins G Batting 4 712 14 1002-00 Five to Seven (MEA) (12) (Five to Seven Perturbing C Thomson 6 7 11 A Mackey 15 14 1002-00 Five to Seven (MEA) (12) (Five to Seven Perturbing C Thomson 6 7 11 A Mackey 15
14 1002 00 Five To Seven (USA) (12) (No. 12 Sent Interesting to In
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16 5 21010 BISHONELOCK (12) (F) Calend) Neg 6 7 8 Date (Brace 20 17 ONLC10 BIAND (1534) (157) (1588 BIAND)) Water 5 7 8 Date (Brace 20 17 ONLC10 BIAND (1534) (157) (1588 BIAND)) Water 5 7 8 Date (Brace 20 18 BIAND) (1584 BI
18 October March 1998 (201) United to the Company of the Company o
17 OM, COO SUAD (USA) (S7) When Suckley) White 5 (3) 18 OM, COO 19 OM, COO
20 21503 WED STRUMBERTY (24) (20)9000 Link has a section 0 7 21 534160 BRUMON (23) Date Front 1 Date 4 7 7 21 534160 BRUMON (23) Date Front 1
21 S34360 BRANON (22) DAME 1/410 1 1/41
Aller Tea Tea Tea 1th Hiller Connections Test 20th Revenue Test 15th
Stronger 7: 70, The handred mights feature for 9-1 forch fort, 20-1 flow Regulation, 25-1 inset, SETTING: 7-2 Top Goes, 4-1 Subset, 5-1 Subset, 9-2 flower, See Presenting, Size Rings, 25-3 (Size See See See See See See See See See S
SETTING: 7-2 Top Good, 4-1 Street, 5-1 Street, San Processor, Stor Rada, 25-1 others
14-1 ON Red, 18-1 Shadiyeen, 20-3 America 1984; Capten's Guest 4 9 9 A Clark 25-1 (6 Harwood) 32 Rm
1284: Californ 2 (No. 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 0 0



7.30 HERA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 midded 2YO 6F 221108 CREMICAST (16) B Micelan 9 4 003 MiDAS GOLD (16) B Micelan 9 4 05160 CHIMA CASRE (28) P Hastam 9 0 ... - 13 cocures -BEXTONIC 2-1, Cayolo Bloff, 3-1 & La High, 5-1 Communit, 6-1 (respo), 7-1 Militae Grid, 8-1 Ultra Barley, 10-1 Featts, 12-1 others

8.00 ALLSPORTS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 6f added 6f - 13 doctored - 13 doctored - 14 Edder 2 RMS RAMED (14) (C) BF) R Helinched 4 9 12 ...A Edder 1 EDGER 2 RMS RAMED (14) (C) BF) R Helinched 4 9 12 ...A Edder 1 Edder 3 Leader, Gur Little Leader,



Stone happy to ride the roller-coaster

Glenn Moore talks to one of the few England successes in Oslo this week on his up and down career at Forest

teve Stone could not stop Smiling, and it was not because his airline dinner had arrived. It was in the early bours of Thursday morning, we were somewhere over the North Sea, and Stone was entering his fourth hour as a full England international.

The 24-year-old Nottingham Forest midfielder had played the last quarter of England's goalless draw with Norway on Wednesday night, and been one of the few players to emerge with credit. Not that he was making a fuss about it.

Having denied Stale Solbakken a shooting opportunity with his first touch, he almost induced an own goal from Henning Berg with his second, a right-wing cross. It was al-most the closest England came to scoring but, afterwards, Stone could not even remember it without

prompting.

However, he could remember when he knew he would win his first cap. "As we came out after half-time Terry Venables made a special point of saying to me: 'Make sure you get really warmed-up'. That is when I felt I would get on.

"I thought we kept the ball well in the first half, but we were not getting round them enough. I thought maybe I could get behind them. That is one of my strengths and that is what happened with that chance."

Stone had been told he was a substitute in the morning after Venables took the team on a walk around their leafy Oslo hotel. It was a rapid rise, considering this was only his first time in the squad.

"I was surprised at being called ," he said. "I had been playing well at home for Forest but my away form had not been so clever -although that applies to the whole

"I knew some of the England scouts had been watching us, and I had played well in some of the pames so I knew I was in with a chance. When I did get in I looked around and thought. Well, there's been some injuries, that is why I am

"I was a bit nervous coming down. I thought: 'Nobody knows each other, what will it be like?'. Then I got there and everybody knew each other from times gone Photograph: David Ashdown by, and playing against each other.

"I talked to some of the Newwas also a big help having Smart Pearce there. He's massive at Forest and he is also very big at international level. They room us in separate rooms, but he just came nd stayed in my room.

Like Pearce, who came late to professional football, Stone aporeciates his fortune. Although he as always been in football, having been signed by Forest as a junior, his career was nearly finished be-

"I broke my right leg three times," he recalled, attempting to flex it in the narrow confines of an aircraft seat. "I must have played for about a year between 17 and 29. The first two I thought would be alright but the third time there were wide. I like being on the edge of complications. It -

took me more than a year to get than a year to get tooke my right back and I could see some of the staff at Forest looking at me and that the staff at took me more thinking: 'He's not going to make it'. than a year to I did wonder if I would. There was get back' muscle sticking to _

injections solved the problem.

Thave never looked back. It is a roller-coaster at the minute. Everything has gone so well since, then you keep thinking something is going to come crashing down. It makes you appreciate it more. I have seen the appreciate it inore. I have seen the
other side of it, when you think you
are not going to make it as a foothaller. Then you make it to the highest level, it gives you a great buzz."
Having regained his fitness.
Stone now had to gain a first-team
place. It was Brian Clough's final

season as manager and Forest were

heading for relegation.

"He did not put me in at first, I was too young. It can be a bad thing rutting a superior leaf to a bad thing putting a young lad in a relegation situation because he might not recover. He put me in for the last 12 games. By then we were doomed. But it gave me a good insight into the Premiership and made me want

come in and everyone would stand back. You kept quiet, you did not castle lads, being from there myself, want to say anything out of turn as Robert Lee and John Beresford, it he would chew your head off. He

was very good, though."
Frank Clark took over and Stone won a regular place in central midfield but when Lars Bohinen arrived, he was switched to the right

wing.
"I was not playing well in the centre and the move was fair enough - I did not warrant a place inside. He probably saw I had a little bit of pace and he then persisted with me as I looked out of place for about four months. I am grateful for that. He has been a good manager, he has pushed me along and worked on me. Eventually I struck up a good partnership with Des Lyt-tle, the right-back.

"I do not like being stuck too

them make mistakes. Anybody can look good if you give them the bone, but a series of cortisone time. I try and get on them - it is

a one-on-one situation with the left-back and I do not want to let them settle. "My weaknesses? My final ball could be better, I am working on

that. I need to pick people out bet-ter. And my finishing. I always used to score goals from centre-midfield, but as soon as I got in the first team I stopped scoring."

Crossing and shooting fairly

damning weaknesses for an at-tacking wide midfielder. At Forest there is a feeling that he is not yet an international player - but he could develop into one. He does get in goalscoring positions, which is half the battle. So is self-awareness, Stone knows his weaknesses and is prepared to work on them.

Venables is confident in his ability to continue improving. "I have watched him for some time," he said. "He did well last season and started this season even better. He a surprise if he is not.

They made me feel welcome from . "He was a character. He would did very well when he came on. He looked very sharp. He has had a lot of injuries and he has carned his

Today Forest take their unbeaten Premiership record to White Hart Lane, where they, and Stone, first came to prominence last season with a 4-1 win.

"Spurs have hit a bit of form but we have always done well down there: we play well against sides who let us play," Stone said. "Last year we played really well. They were just starting a bad run and in the second ond half we gave them a real going over, bitting them on the break in

true Forest style."
Forest surprised many by finishing fourth last season, and have done relatively well this year, despite drawing too often. But with Stan Collymore and then Bohinen moving on, there is a feeling that the club structure - which prevents an individual taking control - means they will never be able to match the financial power of the hig-city clubs and those supported by the likes of Jack Walker.
"We miss Stan. Any team would.

He is a phenomenal player. But Jason Lee is doing well, he does the things he's good at - gets the ball, lays it off, gets in the box. Bryan Roy is playing a Nicky Barmby role and he is complementing him well. We can hold anybody on our day, our defence is very good, but we have

And if Forest do not win things? Middlesbrough have been linked with Stone, both he and his girlfriend - they have two children are from the North-east and Stone's Geordie accent is still strong.

"That has been going on for a while. There have been a few clubs mentioned. But I am happy at Forest. It is a good set-up, with a good manager, and the supporters like me. The grass is not always greener. A lot of people have left Forest to try and better themselves, but it does not always work out like that." He has a point. Nigel Clough. Neil Webb, even Collymore - for the mo-

ment - have lost their England places after leaving Forest. The unassuming Stone insists: "I might not be in the next squad. There were a lot of injuries this time." It will be

Team news

Townsend is serving a one-match sus-pension, Staunton will take his place in Villa's midfield with McGrath returning in vina Stribuler was involved the burn in to defence. Milosevic (groin strain) is doublut, Johnson stands by. Chelsea's Spackman starts a three-metch suspension, Rocastle makes squad for lifet time this season. Myers and Steve are fit, but Sinclair (ankle) is out. Blackburn v Southarr

Bohinen is expected to make debut for sommen is expected to make deduction of champions but McKintay may have to wait. Goelkeeper Flowers (elbow) has recovered. Saints are hoping that Magitton can shrug off a dead leg. Heaney or hughes stand by to deputise. **Bolton v Everton**

McGinlay spearheads Bolton's attack, but fellow striker Pastelsinen (hernia) is not expected to come into consideration for first-team recall yet. Amokachi and Kanchelskis return as Eventon seek to end their dismal run. Leeds v Arsenal

Letos v Arrenses
Goaffeeper Lukic makes his 400th appearance for Leeds while Dorigo, Pemberton and Whelan have all recovered from Injury, Skopper McAllister hopes to be in the squad despite picking up an ankle knock playing for Scotland. Arsenal are unchanged.

Liverpool v Coventry
Rush has recovered from back injury
but cannot expect a quick return following Fowler's fine form. Assistant
manager Stachan is in Coventy stual
which is depoleted by the absence
through injury of Dublin, Burrows and
Remnie. Left-back Hall toces a late fitness test, Borrows sunds by.
Man Utd v Manchester City
Keene is still awaiting advice on his

Keane is still awaiting advice on his injured groin but may feature in Unit-ed's try for a fifth successive derby win. Cantona (tree) faces a late test. City's Phelan deputises for the sus-pended Brightwell in defence. QPR y Newcasi

Rangers fans are still waiting for first, appearance of £1m striker Hateley, but Sinciair returns efter a one-match sus-pension. Ferdinand will be the centre of attention for Newcastle against his old club. Beardsley (knee), Ginola (tingh) and Howey (knee) are all fit. Tottenham v Nottingham Forest Spurs have ruled out Armstrong so Fox makes his debut alongside Sheringham. For Forest Roy has recovered from knee injury and is set to take over from Silenzi. Bart-Williams has shrugged off a groin injury but Camp-bell and Phillips are still out.

ledon v West Ham Long-term Wimbledon casualties Blactwell and McAllister are ap-proaching full fitness. Hammers will be without injured full-back Breack-er, Danish defender Rieper is favourite to take over atmough Brown and Row-land are also in contention.

Sheffield Wed v Middle Inconsistent Wednesday are without suspended Hirst, but Degyee returns after injury. Boro manager Robson has ruled out a comeback for himself and has drafted Stamp into his squad, Pol-lock picked up a back injury in train-ing and is doubtful.

Back to the bread and butter

lude that some might have found irritating, it is back to the bread-and-butter business of competing for points. For any side on a good run, there will be the worry that the 12-day pause in Premiership play could have broken the spell. For the out of sorts, there will have been frustration at being unable to go straight back on to the pitch to

Steve Stone hits the heights on his England debut this week

But if defeat or disappointment at national form irritated the fans, that is nothing in com-parison to Howard Wilkinson's annoyance as the Leeds United manager ponders whether to risk Gary McAllister against Arsenal at Elland Road this afternoon. The Scot returned from international duty in Sweden with an ankle injury, but has now decided he is fit enough to play. Wilkinson's problem is that he will want McAllister for Tuesday's Uefa Cup match against PSV Eindhoven, and the

ghtest knock today might rule

After an international inter- Mark Burton on the big issues of the weekend's Premiership programme

> visit Elland Road, Leeds will could be decided by strikers who were not whisked away to join the whirl of European Championship action. Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp was not needed by the Netherlands for their trip to Malta and Tony Yeboah, the Leeds goal machine, was excused on geographical grounds, although if Israel can be in Europe for football purposes, then why not Ghana?

> Neither was Eric Cantona called to the French flag, nor Uwe Rösler required by Germany in Wales. However, they should both be involved in settling a little local difficulty in the Manchester derby. The element of doubt concerns Cantona. Apparently, he is improving. Not his talents, if that were possible, nor perhaps his temper, but his fitness after injuring his leg in a reserve game last weekend.

have a foretaste of dealing with one may be, but Alex Ferguson a Dutch threat in a match that is awash with alternatives in one may be, but Alex Ferguson Loftus Road this afternoon. choosing the United team to trot out at Old Trafford. If only his managerial counterpart at Maine Road had problems of that magnitude. Alan Ball refuses to panic even though, despite Rösler's goals, his City side have managed only one draw and seven defeats in the league this season. Today is as good a time as any to launch a recovery, as the theory goes that anything can happen in a derby. In practice, though, pre-dictability tends to prevail. To save Ball the trouble of saying so, though, it is too early to start dreading the drop.

Predictability - sorry, conti-nuity - rules at international level, too, which is presumably why Les Ferdinand did not even make the England bench in Oslo despite his glut of goals helping to make Newcastle United the benchmark for success this season. Yet another theory suggests he cannot fail to score against his former club, Queen's Park Rangers, at

The man who retained his non-scoring striking role for England, Alan Shearer, comes face to face with one who cannot find a way into Terry Venables' squad at all when Matt Le Tissier plays for Southampton at Blackburn this afternoon. Teddy Sheringham tries to add to his 11 domestic goals so far this season when Tottenham take on a Nottingham Forest side shorn of Lars Bohinen, one of England's Nor-

wegian opponents.

Blackburn may field Bohinen
and Billy McKinlay, who both completed their moves to Ewood Park yesterday, while Everton have two of their foreign imports, Daniel Amokachi and Andrei Kanchelskis, back from injury for their trip to Bolton. Now there is a noninternational interlude that Everton will be glad is over ...

Petrescu moves to Chelsea for £2.3m

RUPERT METCALF

Dan Petrescu got his wish yesterday; a move from Sheffield Wednesday to Chelsea. The 27-year-old Romanian in-ternational full-back, brought to Hillsborough from Genoa by Trevor Francis for £1.3m last summer, will cost his new club £2.3m - subject to a new work

permit being granted. Petrescu upset David Pleat, who replaced Francis in the close season, when he reportedly said that he wanted to play alongside Ruud Gullit at Stam-ford Bridge. "It created an unhealthy situation," Pleat said yesterday. "His agent was looking to change a contract that was only 15 or 16 months old."

Blackburn Rovers completed two deals yesterday that will boost their midfield resources: Scotland's Billy McKinlay arrived from Dundee United for £1.75m while Norway's Lars Bohinen finalised his cut-price £750,000 move from Nottingham Forest. One midfielder is leaving Ewood Park: Lee Makel has joined

Huddersfield for £300,000. Bolton have agreed a £1m fee with Partizan Belgrade for the 23-year-old Yugoslav international, Sasa Curcic, and have taken another midfield man, Wayne Burnett, from Plymouth on loan with a view to a £100,000 move. Bolton have also sold the striker Owen Covie to Dundee United for £400.00.

The Swiss Football Federation has agreed to let their coach, Roy Hodgson, join Internazionale - but only if he stays on as part-time coach of the Swiss national team, who are almost certain to qualify for the European Championship finals next summer.

The English-born coach has told an Italian newspaper that he will "not have a preferential relationship" with Paul Ince, Inter's England midfielder, "just because be is the same nation-

McCoist may have to wait

Scottish football

Four international players Paul McStay, Stuart McCall, Ally McCoist and Scott Booth - are available to return to Scot-

tish League action today. All four missed Scotland's friendly with Sweden in Stockholm on Wednesday, but are fit enough to be named in squads by Celtic, Rangers and Aberdeen respectively.

Although McCall should

play, Rangers may not risk M Coist for their visit to Particl Thistle, with a Champio League trip to Juventus to com. on Wednesday. McCoist suffered a thigh strain 10 days ago but has made a quick recovery.

"I don't want to bring him back too quickly if there is a chance of the same injury happening again," said the lbrox manager, Walter Smith, who will still be without five top men tomorrow: Paul Gascoigne, Brian Laudrup, Charlie Miller, Ian Ferguson and Oleg Salenko are all injured. Celtic entertain Hibernian

with McStay back after a groin problem. Phil O'Donnell will play in the reserves as he seeks to prove his fitness for Thursday's Cup-Winners' Cup tie at Paris St-Germain, Tosh McKinlay also has a chance of making it for that game but will not feature today. Celtic will not comment on speculation linking them with the Liverpool and Wales striker, Ian Rush.

The Aberdeen striker Booth. the top scorer in the Premier League, is fit to keep his place for the visit to Fir Park to face Motherwell. Heart of Midlothian are at

have their minds on Tuesday's Uefa Cup meeting with Bayern Munich. Jim Jefferies, the Hearts manager, will give Tyng castle debuts to Neil Pointon, the former Everton full-back, and Steve Fulton after their recent arrivals in Edinburgh. David Hagen, who went to Falkirk when Fulton moved to Hearts, makes his debut against Kilmarnock at Brockville Park.

Quite suddenly, one sunny afternoon at Gigg Lane, our world was turned upside down

whilst being mildly diverted by a collection of muddied oafs indulging in what, at that time, passed for Fourth Division association football in this outpost of empire on the Essex

We were simple folk, largely inured to the team yo-yoing from Fourth Division to Third and back again. A successful season was one where we finished higher than Colchester United. While occasionally en-

Roots Hall was once a sanc- Billy Best or Richard Cadette, tuary where a man could be more often than not the long alone. Many a dank Friday suffering diehards had to conevening have I spent standing beneath one of many drips in its rain-lashed West Stand for Billy Smart's circus. One communing with the dozen or could always enjoy the dyslexic so like-minded misanthropes announcer grappling with the who regularly foregathered English language and battling there in the hope of catching with the elements and the a glimpse of Greta Garbo feedback over the 15 watt PA system that had once provided the sounds in the chairman's Ford Zephyr.

In the frequent playing hia-tuses, home fans could play "Spot the Rochdale/Barnsley supporter" or anticipate the excitement of watching the dozing herring gull plummet headfirst off the crossbar during a goalmouth scramble. The really adventurous among us would even take odds on United. While occasionally enjoying the talents of players like flats' windows "Big Roy" FAN'S EYE VIEW No 115 Southend United STEVEN E HEATH

McDonough would smash when shooting for goal. But, quite suddenly, one sunny afternoon at Gigg Lane, our world was turned upside down. That day Ian Benjamin scored a goal that not only won a game for the Blues but also propelled them into the unknown, heady atmosphere of the Second Division. Much rejoicing ensued. Goodbye

Colchester! Hello Charlton, Luton and Grimsby! However, like the cheering crowds of August 1914, we were also, unwittingly,

Darlington, Hartlepool and

celebrating our impending loss of innocence for, like most silver linings, this one had a bloody great grey cloud wrapped around it. The first casualty was the

traditional, much loved Friday night home game. Teams from the upper echelons, it appeared, were unwilling to for-go the delights of fireside, cocoa and slippers to slither about in the mud at the seaside. Nor was one now able to simply saunter up to the turnstiles at one minute to kick-off and still reach one's regular spot before the sound of the

away. To gain access it was now necessary to negotiate queues the length of which had only previously been seen snaking from the outside urinals. And once inside all the "regular spots" had been obliterated by plastic seating seemingly designed to house malnourished

Most disturbingly of all we sour-faced, tacitum old hands, we few, we happy few who had once thrilled to the 10-1 drubbing of Aldershot in the Leyland-Daf Cup, had to share our stand with strangers who would ask questions like "Who are the team in blue?" Gone, too, the blue and

white knitted scarves and elbow-shattering rattles to be replaced by hordes of portly gents, working towards their first embolisms, squeezed into

what were once the preserve of fairly young and fit footballers. The last time I had seen the seams of a Southend shirt under similar stress, it had had a No 10 on the back and contained Keith Mercer... It is not even as if our higher

status has shielded us from the perfidy of managers and players deserting us for the main chance. Consequently the (albeit remote) prospect of reaching the Premier League appalls me.

Surely the true romance of football is to be found in the cameraderie and hopeless optimism of the lower divisions. Is not belonging to a small coterie on an away trip to Hartlepool more edyfying than sporting a Manchester United shirt on a Saturday afternoon's shopping trip to Lakeside?

eeks hom

m's faith un

home to Raith Rovers, who may

sport

Modesty prevents me revealing the identity of the scorer, but it was a dipping, swirling shot from at least 30, no, 45 yards

Coc among its MPs, there was surprisingly little interest taken in sport at the Conservative Party Conference. There were no fringe meetings on the subject (unless you count The British Association for Shooting and Conservation's effort titled "Sporting Shooting's Contribution to the Countryside"); no amusing allusions to Éric Cantona in speeches; no suggestion in the law and order debate that Duncan Ferguson, after being locked up, should have the key of his cell flung into the Clyde, Over a whole week only one sporting gag emerged: a Scottish unionist delegate calling Alan Howarth, the recent defector to Labour, "the Mo Johnston

But then sport and the average Tory delegate don't appear to be on

paragons of fitness. But these Tory activists, particularly the younger ones, were bursting out of their pin-striped suits all over Blackpool. The party is a walking (or rather taxihaiting) vindication of that recent report which suggested the entire country was heading for collective obesity, no wonder Virginia Bottomley is the most unpopular min-ister here: she was the one who, as Health Secretary, told everyone we ought to exercise more often. You could tell how unfit our rulers are when the finest XI the party could muster challenged the journalists of the parliamentary lobby to a foot-ball match. It seemed a wise choice of opponents: hours spent in the press bar at the House of Commons and a diet entirely based on Mari-

were confident too, boasting in the hotel the night before the game about the size of their impending majority. The game took place at Bioomfield Road, home of Black-pool FC. This is the place where Owen Oyston, Blackpool's owner, plans to build a super stadium, complete with sliding roof, massive hotel and indoor arena attached. But for now, the ground remains as it was in the 1950s, the Tower peeping over the top of the vertiginous terrace banking up one end. The goalkeepers spent almost as much time on this terrace as on the pitch, making frequent trips to retrieve the ball. They had to get the ball themselves because, where once the hordes turnbled in celebration of Matthews and

Jim White

ON SATURDAY

empty. Not that it is that full when Blackpool play these days, A sign prominently positioned up there displayed one of the great euphemisms of modern football: "Capacity re-

Thanks to the splendid hospitali-ty of the club, the journalists' team slipped on the famous tangerine shirts. The Tories were an old Wimbledon strip. It was prophetic. Within five minutes, a long-range shot from the man at the Sun hit the back of a Tory defender and arced into the net ("Another Tory own goal," someone shouted). Then he hit a second, and when a third went in soon afterwards (modesty prevents me revealing the identity of the scorer, but it was a dipping, swirling, Jamie Red-lenapp of a shot from at least 30 -no, 45 yards) among the Tories there was an outbreak of the sort of vigorous and healthy debate you expect from a party which is such a broad church. They fell upon each other, yelling about missed chances, upbraiding each other for failing to tackle flying left wingers. One player called an-

other "a whingeing Scouse git" (the git in question was Angela Rumbold's there was the presentation of trostituency agent).

There wasn't a leadership election at half-time as everyone traipsed to the dressing-room for beakers of lukewarm, sweet tea (Gatorade hasn't percolated down to the Third Division, clearly), but it was close. In short, this was the Conservative Party at play. The second half was more even, both sides losing their deposits of energy to such an extent that the man from ITN, filming from the sidelines, said afterwards he always thought football was a game which involved running. The match finished 4-2; Alastair Burt, the Social Security Minister, scored their second, cheating the queue of hacks all claiming the benefit of offside. A parliamentary ombudsman, studying the video evidence, might con-

phies in the supporters' club by Blackpool's Karren Brady-style managing director, Jill Bridge. Here it was agreed it was a wonderful afternoon for those of us whose previous excursions on to the pitches of proper grounds had been as small boys, evading policemen as we ran. Thanks were due principally to Nick Hawkins, the local MP, who had brokered the arrangements. He played the cotire match, skipping down the Tories' right wing with a vigour which was not typical of his party. But then he he is probably fitter than your average Tory: he is presently engaged on what is known as the chicken run, dashing south for a safer seat than Blackpool, No wonder: Blackpool had just seen the

England focus falls on Pears

STEVE BALE

of politics.'

Assuming Jack Rowell is serious about wanting to make the much-touted generational change his England team will require sooner rather than later, events have been conspiring rather wickedly in his

Let us be cynical for a moment. The two-game suspension of Dean Richards, which firstly puts the England No 8 out of Leicester's First Division fixture against Orrell this afternoon, obviously does him no selectorial favours, since it would give Rowell an excuse when he eventually makes his choice to face South Africa next month.

Then there is the case of Rob Andrew, who plays for Wasps at Gloucester despite the going-over both his dignity and his choirboy features received against Bath last Saturday, Nevelsewhere - on Newcastle's de-

Rebuffed in one bid for Mil-

lennium funds to rebuild Cardiff

Arms Park ready for the 1999

World Cup, the Welsh Rugby

Union yesterday unveiled an al-

ternative which would also keep

the ground as its home but

would not entail moving the

Cardiff club to the city's dock-

WRU officers have been in

Blackpool lobbying the Conser-

vative party conference this week

and will meet the Millennium

Commission within a fortnight or

towards a £100m project to pro-

ride a 75.000 all-seater stadium.

lands, writes Steve Bale.

other convenient excuse for the England manager.

No, it is the simpler matter that the form of the Wasps stand-off/Newcastle development director has been off while conversely that of David Pears has been on. Why, at this rate of change Rowell might even be able to satisfy Dick Best, whom he sacked as England coach last year.

The two are said not to be talking to each other - a standoff of a different kind that is not will have to be a change in the conducive to the well-being of English or England rugby and Best, Harlequins' director of rugby, has castigated Rowell for talking a good game without persuading his players to

Nor has there been much evidence even at the zenith of the Courage Championship, with last Saturday's Wasps-Bath sbocker all too fresh in the mind, that they are liable to er mind if Andrew's mind is manage it against the Springboks. Pears, perhaps, may be the scent of the Second Division, for answer for both Rowell and

the commission. But failing that,

the new scheme would involve

buying surrounding properties in-

cluding the Empire Pool (built for

the 1958 Commonwealth

Games), turning the pitch

through 90 degrees and moving

it 40 yards to the south leaving

the adjacent club ground intact.

Union yesterday appointed the New Zealand-born Murray Kidd

as national team coach. Murray,

41, takes up his duties with im-

mediate effect. Marray is resident

land League Divsion Two side Sunday's Well and previously

The Irish Rugby Football

once Quins have got through their game at Sale today.

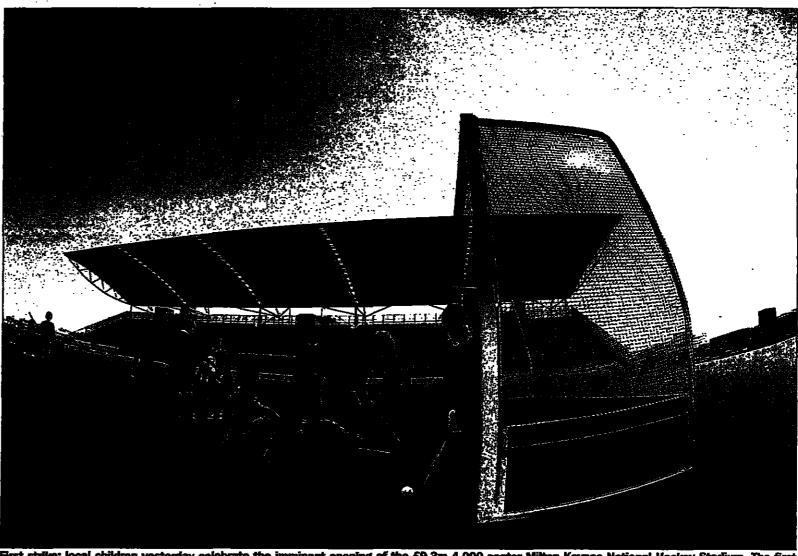
Here Andy Mullins, once an England prop in the dim dis-tance of 1989, will become the first player to have appeared in 100 league matches (Graham Dawe reaches 99 for the leaders Bath against Bristol). But Will Carling, who was captain last time England played, will again be missing with a calf strain and Jason Leonard's continuing absence suggests there England front row as well. On the other hand, one

change Rowell would not wish to have to make is at lock - the perilous position of Martin Johnson explaining the extreme anxiety of Tony Russ, the Leicester coaching director, on the subject of yellow cards. This is the Rugby Union's ver-sion of the Tories' two-strikesand-you're-out and, whatever the rights and wrongs of the referees' decisions concerning Richards at least the ex-PC was suspended after being nabbed two weeks running

Like Richards, Johnson saw vellow against Gloncester a fortnight ago and will have the new totting-up procedure hang-ing over him until either he reoffends or the end of the season, whichever comes first. To this - in fact to the very principle of red and yellow cards -

Russ objects. So does the National Clubs' Association, which wants to take over disciplinary hearings from local bodies. When the NCA met the RFU professionalism commission yesterday it also asked, among other things, for players' contracts to be club-based.

So Johnson had better be on good behaviour against Orrell as the Tigers maintain their pursuit of Bath and Quins.



First strike: local children yesterday celebrate the imminent opening or the £9.3m 4,000-seater mutton neynes national mockey statium. The first phase of the development cost English associations £500,000. The balance was raised through the sale of part of the 18½ acre site provided by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation with grants from the Foundation for Sports and the Arts and the Sports Council. The first events will take place from March with a men's and woman's four nations pre-Olympic tournament arranged for 13 to16 June

Teddington begin delayed defence

BILL COLWILL

Teddington, the National League champions, who played in the Club Tournament in The Hague last weekend, and missed the opening of the league programme, begin their campaign tomorrow with a home game against newly promoted St Alban's. The Welsh international,

Tyrone Moore, and Renwick ager, Neil Campling, said of last have been into the transfer Halls, who goes into hospital for Irvine, who missed the Dutch trip, where Teddington finished a disappointing seventh, return to the squad. But there are still doubts about England's Phil

McGuire. Even so, the Welsh interna-tional Walid Abdo, has been unable to find a place in the squad which includes the new signing from Beeston, Keith Reesby, their penalty corner specialist. Teddington's man-

week's tournament: "An excellent warm-up, but we were well behind the standard of the leading Dutch club. Any of the teams which competed were capable of winning our league."

Old Loughtonians, with their new coach, Billy McPherson, visit Hampshire to play the three-times champions, Ha-

of internationals including Scot-Sutton, while Havant have relied on their own very well-developed youth programme to fill their gaps. Again, a corner spe-cialist, England's Calum Giles

could tip the scales in this match. Loughtonians will be without English international Julian

market and recruited a number a hernia operation next week and expects to be missing for land's David Ralph and Eng- about six weeks. Havant anland's Jason Lee and Matt nounce an unchanged squad with Steve Baker having recovered from last Sunday's head injury against Cannock. Another English international missing is Southgate's captain Soma Singh from their game against Reading which

could give an early pointer for

Nemeth's faith undimmed

McColgan runs on thin air

The union would still prefer its coached Garryowen to the Irish original plans to be accepted by Championship in 1991-92.

so to restate their case for £50m in Ireland, was coach to All-Ire-

WRU seeks home help

Reskethall

England's beleaguered coach, Laszlo Nemeth, will have to beef up his flagging challenge in the European Championships by the time the former champions, Germany, line up against them in their third semifinal group game at Sheffield's Ponds Forge on 12 November, writes Duncan Hooper.

Nemeth insists: "I have faith in my team and their abilities," but after defeats against Latvia and Estonia and with the Germans and Russians still to come, England already look wooden spoon candidates with Portugal in the two-year, 10-game group.

Liz McColgan is adamant that

even the earthquakes in Mexi-

co will not interrupt the build-

up to her assault on next year's

that she still intends flying there

on Monday for three weeks of

TODAY'S

NUMBER

169

The record number of teams

that will try to qualify for the

1998 World Cup finals in

France. The official deadline

passed yesterday but late en-

tries will still be considered.

McColgan has confirmed

Olympic marathon title.

in the 91-89 defeat against Estonia on Wednesday, looks international class. And unless the injured 6ft 10in Spencer Dunkley returns from the Spanish club Badalona, where he is being treated for a knee injury, England will be overpowered by Germany.

Trevor Gordon, who played for England in the qualification tournament in May but dropped out of contention while in dispute with Manchester, returned to Budweiser League action with his new club Birmingham Bullets. Also back on the scene was the 6ft 8m Tony King, who lined up for Derby Storm. King, who already has 14 caps, is back in England Only London Towers' Steve after completing his university Bucknall, who scored 31 points career in Michigan.

altitude training before tackling

the Tokyo marathon next month. The earthquakes are

350 miles away from where I am

going. I'm not expecting any problems," McColgan said.

Great Midland 10-kilometre

event in Coventry, a race she

won 12 months ago after an 18-

month absence through injury.

McColgan, already the fastest Briton over the distance

this year when running 32min

27sec in Edinburgh on 1 Octo-

ber, admits she is looking for an

utes. I know the course is quick,

as I won last year's race. Obvi-

ously a lot will depend on the

It will be the former world

10,000 metres champion's fourth

race in five weeks with victories

in the Great North Run, Cale-

donian and South having giving

her confidence a big lift.

conditions," she said.

"I think I can better 32 min-

even faster time.

Tomorrow she tackles the

McCracken fight moves to Midlands

Birmingham's Robert Mc-Cracken's attempt to win the vacant Commonwealth middleweight title next month will take place in Dudley Town Hall. McCracken was expecting to face the Canadian champion Fitzgerald Bruney for the title in London on 3 November, but the fight was transferred to the Midlands after McCracken's manager, Mickey Duff, ran into

problems trying to find a suitable venue in the capital. McCracken, who gave up his British light-middleweight title earlier this week, said: "This is a big chance for me and I plan to make the most of it. "I have struggled in my last

two fights and could easily have

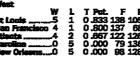
been turned over. The weight problems had something to do with that, but I also wasn't training properly. All that has changed now and I'm determined there will be no slip-ups." Duff, who has tipped Mc-Cracken to win a world title, said: "He owes it to himself to knuckle down because at the end of the day it is his standard of living that he is fighting for. He can win a world title and make enough money to invest

m a business and make himself

comfortable in later life."

Hiroki loka will attempt to become the first Japanese fighter - and the first in Asia - to win world titles in three different divisions when he challenges the World Boxing Association flyweight champion Saen Sow Plocachit, of Thailand, on Tuesday. Ioka has already won the World Boxing Council strawweight and WBA junior flyweight championships.

SPORTING DIGEST American football NRL: St Louis 21 Atlanta 19.



Ramiz Raja, the Pakistan captain, stroked an unbeaten 104 to spur Pakistan to a 15-cm win over West Indies in the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah yesterday, Remiz's mitth one-day international century made him the first Pakistani to reach that landmark and it merced his side from the precadors. It rescued his side from the precarious position of 49 for 3. Pakistan have now

team event. CHAMPONS' TROPHY (Sharjab, UAE): Pak-istan 242 for 4 (50 ovens; Ramiz Raja 104no, Bash Ali SA); West Indies 227 (Sarjain Must-taq 4-47). Pakistan woo by 15 mas. taq 4-47). Paidstan won by 15 mms. India are to rely on spin for the first time in 20 years for the first two flests against New Zeeland. Four spinners have been included in their 14-strong squad – the leg-spinners, Anii Kumble and Narendra Hirwani, the left-armer, Venkatapathy Raju, and the off-spinner, Rajesh Chauhan. The opener, Navjot Singh Sidhu, was left out on timess grounds and the betting specialist, Vilgam Rathore, is the only newcomer in the squad for is the only newcomer in the squad for the lests, the first of which starts in Ban-

the Tests, the first of which starts in Ban-galore on Wednesday, noba, sociato grant first v New Zealand, Bangalore, sharting Wednesdayis M Arhanutidin (copt), S. Rendular Mos-coot, S. V. Margelex, V. G. Karnbis, V. Rathore, N. R. Morge (wid), M. Prathalas, A. R. Kumble, J. Sa-nath, N. D. Hinani, Vernileah Pased, Verisata-pothy Raju, R. K. Chauhan, A. S. Jadeja. TOUR MARCH (Bombley; second day of three); New Zealand 2.17 for 8 do (M.) Geer-batch 100); Bombley 219 for 4 (S. V. Menjielar 79, V. G. Mambill \$500).

Essex have signed Paul Grayson, the 24year-old batsman and slow left-armer released by Yorkshire.

Miguel Indurain, who won gold in the time trial and silver in the road race at the world championship in Colombia, will attempt to break the world hour record tomorrow at the Luis Carlos Gelan Velodrome track used for the champi-onships in Bogota, Indurain's only enerry in the open eir track is the wind so he will make his attempt in the ear ly hours. The record stands at 55.291 kilometers (34.28 miles), set by Tony Rominger, of Switzerland, last Novem-

Football Frank Burrows, the former Portsmouth and Swansea manager, has joined the coaching staff at West Harn. John Harles will leave Derby County at the end of the season and return home to America. The United States Soccer Federation has agreed a £500,000 fee with the Baseball Ground club for Harles, who will play in Major League Soccer next season. Soccer next sesson.

The Rangers and Scotland defender, Alan McLaren, yesterday won a partial re-prieve from Llefa, European footbell's governing body, which reduced his three-match champions' League ban for his red card at Steaua Bucharest to a two-game suspension.

Hull City have been served with a wind-ing-up petition by the Inland Revenue. The case will be heard in the High Court on 25 Overhead

South America yesterday won conditional approvel from Fifa, the world governing body, to change the traditional format of their 1998 World Cup qualifying matches. Instead of the usual system marcies, inspect of the Issua system whereby the entrants from each con-tinent play off in qualifying groups as proposed by all the other continents, South America preferred a single round-robin mini championship in which all rine. entrants play each other at home and away. Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle maneg-er, has won the Carling Manager of the

et, his won the Carling Manager of the Month award for the second successive time. Keegan's attractive side lead the FA Carling Premiership and he just beat Geny Francis, of Queen's Park Rangers, and Middlesbrough's Bryan Robson. TRANSFERS: Rassell Coeghilin (midfleid-ar) Exetar to Torquay (normal fee); Paul Budde indifficied Torquay to Exetar floatis. on J. Zeich w. Induper Victiman verg., rams Buckle (midfielder) Torquay to Erster (Gent); Andry De Bont (goalkesper) Wolves to Hartiegool (cent); Georgie Midmit (forward) Yosk to Derlington (cent); Georgie Midmit (forward) Cystal Palace to Bournersouth (loon); Seott Partridge (forward) Bristol City to Torquey (cent); Tomasy Wistann (midfielder) Grism-by to Hull City (loon); Jamaie Patenson Fellenk to Scurthome (cent).

Jose Maria Olazabel, who withdrew from the European Ryder Cup team last month with an aggravated foot injury, will compete in the \$1m Golf Chellenge at Sun City's Gary Player Country Club from 30 November to 3 December. Bob Tway yesterday took advantage of an early tree time to card a seven-un-der-par 55 and claim a one-stroke lead after two rounds of the Las Vegas in-vitational. Tway, the former US PGA champion, flourished in near-perfect morning conditions under a hot desert sun on the Summerlin TPC course to claim a 13-under aggregate of 130 in the five-round event played on three courses. Fellow Americans John Cook (64), Curt Byrum (65), Billy Maylair (65) and Kelly Gibson (65) were one shot behind BOLF DIGEST TOURNAMENT (Suscept, Japan) Leading second-round scores (Japan unless stated): 134 8 Watts (US) 156 68, 136 Chen Tze-ming (Tal) 69 66, 136

T Wetanabe 70 66; S Higashi 68 68; T Manuyama 58 68; R Gibson (Can) 68 68; T Takasaid 68 68; N Yuhara 57 69. 137 H Fanala 71 66; T Suphara 71 66; N Yoshin 69 68; T Nakajima 67 70. Selected: 139 Lin Chle-haing (Fe) 73 66; S Ginn (Aus) 70 69. 140 P Senior (Aus) 72 68. 144 Haich Min-nan (Ta) 74 70.

TO 69, 140 P Senior (Aus) 72 68, 144 Hsieh Min-nan (Ba) 74 70.

WORLD CHAMPHONSHIP OF WOMEN'S GOLF (Chejr Island, 5 Kor) Leading second-round scores (IS unless stabuth: 138 8 King 68 70; P Bradley 68 70; L Davies (63) 67 71, 139 8 Deniel 71 68; V Skinner 70 69, 140 D Mochute 72 68; R Jones 67 73, 141, A Sorenstam (Swe) 72 69; T Green 69 72, 142 J Lidhack (Swe) 71 71, 144 N Bowen 73 71, 145 M Mellon 73 72, 146 I Shibari (Japan) 74 72, 147 K Schetter 73 74; L Ott-soon (S Kor) 72 75, 150 M McGann 76 74.

AMERICAN EXPRESS TOUR NESTLE FRENCH OPEN (SK Endreol) Leading first-round scores (GB or in unless stated); 70 C Socrestam (Swe), 71 M-L de Lorenz (Fr), A Nicholas, J Moriey, 72 L Painclough, L Invine, A Arrud (Sp), N Fink (Aut), E Orley (Swit), 73 D Dowling, S Prosser, A C Jonesson (Swe), G Stewart, E-J Smith, S Burnell, 74 K Douglas, C Soules (F), F Dessu (O), C Drifty, C Low (SA), M Koch (Ge), S Croce (IO, R Leutens (Swit), R Hetherington (Aus).

Ricky Willison, the former English arm-

Ricky Willison, the former English amateur champion, broke the Oulnta do Peru course record in Lisbon yesterday with an eight-under-par second round of 64 to take the lead in the UAP Grand Finale, the final PGA European Challenge Tour event of 1995. Willison's chances rour event or 1990. Wellson's chances of regalning his player's card for next season's main European tour now look more of a reality. He moved from 36th to rienth in the Challenge Your order of ment afterwarning last week's Tunisian Open and the leading 10 players quality.

lty.

UAP GRAND FINALE TOURNAMENT (Lisbon) Leading second-round scores (Enguniess states): 187 R Wilson 73 64, 138 F Valen (Spd) 71 67; R Russell (Spd) 72 66; J Rask (Swe) 70 68; R Russell (Spd) 70; T Planchs (F) 71 68; F Lursson (Swe) 70 68; S Little 68 71; E Bolognesi (1) 69 70; T Planchs (F) 71 68; F Lursson (Swe) 76 68 72; S Harley 71 69; N Verinotegem (Bel) 71 69; M Persson (Swe) 70 70, 142 M Turnicitif 68 74; T Bjorn (Den) 70 72; R Sebaros (F) 73 69; M Santi (8) 72 70, 143 S Field 72 71; W Bernett 71 72; B Tanning (Den) 71 72; N Leconte 76 67; D Lee 73 73.

Ice hockey
NHL: New Jersey 4 Winnipeg 1; Tempa Bay
3 Montreel 1; Chicago 5 Prasburgh 1; St
Louis 3 Delike 1; Vencouver 7 Los Angeles
7 (a/t); Boston 6 San Jose 6 (a/t).

ice skating

The five-event international competition the twe-stern inversacion at competition will be officially called the Champions Series of Figure Stering. The events, previously the grands prix, offer eligible states the chance to compete for prize-money to-tailing \$1.95m (£1.27m). The series culminates with the finals on 23-25.

earners will compete for \$700,000 in prize-money.
GRAMPIONS' SERIES: 26-29 October: State America International '95 (Detroit): 2-5 November: State Canada (St. John, New Brunswick; 15-17 November: Trophy de France (Serieson Nations Cup on los (Gelsenkirchen, Ger); 7-10 December: NHK Trophy (Nagoye, Japan); 23-25 Februsery; Series finals (Parls).

Rugby League Workington are to sign the Western Semoan prop forward, Lafaele Filipo, 25, who plays for the New Zealand club, North Harbour, as an overseas re-placement for the Figan forward, James Pickering, who broke an unite playing for Sydney Buildogs in the summer. Bradford Bulls yesterday signed the back-row forward Simon Knox, a former Bar-la international, from Carlisle, of the Second Division, on the eve of his 23rd birthday. No fee has been agreed be-

tween the clubs.

Boris Becker has pulled out of next week's Vienna indoor tournament be-cause of back problems. The German wants to protect the injury shead of a wants to protect the signly street of the tournament in Essen the following week and will be hoping to pick up points on home soil to make sure of quellif-cation for next month's ATP world championship in Frankfurt.

CHAIRPOYSING IT HAIRCUT.

SEIMO SUPER TOURNAMENT (Iokyo)

Mee's singles geerter-flusts: H Holm (Sw)

It B Black (Zm) 8-3 8-7 6-1; M Philippoussis

(Aus) It R Knajicak (Neth) 6-7 7-6 6-3; H

Dresimann (Ger) It G hanisenic (Cros)

7-8 7-6; M Cheng (US) A Voltov (Rus)

6-2 6-0.

CZECH MEN'S RODOR TOURNAMENT (Os
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TOUR

recomments in the control of the con (M) IX A Medivedev (UN) 6-1, 6-1.

MEN'S ISRAEL OPEN (Tel Aviv) Singles guarter-finals: J Sanchez (Sp) bt J Palmer (US) 7-6 6-3: D Wheaton (US) bt R Vasek (Cz Rep) 6-2 6-0; J Stottenberg (Aus) bt J Krostok (Slovet) 1-6 6-3 6-4; S Pescosolido (II) bt F Fetteriein (Den) 6-3 7-6.

WOMEN'S PORSCHE SEAMO PROX Finaler-finale Code Strottes guarter-finaler

stadt, Gar) Singles quarter-finate; G Sabetin (Arg) bt B Schultz-McCarthy (Neth) 6-2 6-1; A Huber (Ger) bt P Begerow (Ger) 6-3 6-2; (Majoli (Croa) bt M Pierce (Fr) 2-6 6-3 6-2.

Coin Beecher yesterday lost to the South African, Robbie Koenig, in the men's sin-gles final at the LTA Autumn Satellite enough to give him the overall circuit

TIDE.

DA AUTUMN SATELLITE (Birmingham)
Men's singles flunt: R Koenig (SA) bt C
Beacher (SB) 4-6 7-6 6-4. Doubles flunt:
S Marel (Swit) and C Singer (US) bt P Hand
and T Spriks (GB) 6-3 6-1.

championship aspirations. **QUOTES OF** THE WEEK

I i used to hate watching rugby league on television: It was violent, slow and just dreadful. We all thought it was a joke sport. Martin Offiah, Great Britain's winger who used to

play rugby union.

If it was a catastrophe. Martina Hings, 15 year-old prodigr from Switzerland after losing a match last week. tised to be one of the big somewhere in the middle. an Edberg, former Wimbledon champion who is com-ing to terms with his declining

The message was told in this fight. I know Frank Bruno re-alises the message already be-cause he's been trying to duck me Lennox Lewis, desperate to fight the new World Boxing Council heavyweight champi-

We are two goals up and should be just seeing the game out. But when we give away a goal like that it is arse hanging out time. Jack Charlton in cryptic mood after the Republic of Ireland's win over Latvia in midweek.

I have never known any really talented English coaches. Helenio Herrera, who coached internazionale in their glory days in the 1960s, on the appointment of Englishman Roy Hodgson as the club's new

Told, rainy, somewhere in the North, not far from Newcastle. And they play in red. Juninho, Middlesbrough's £4.75m Brazilian signing on his new club

was pleased with that, Ter-ry Venables, England coach, just about the only person who was about the midweek 0-0 bore with Norway.

It's incredible to think Duncan [Ferguson] is behind bairs. He is no danger to society. Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, on the three-month jali sentence for his striker. Rob McLean

.

73.

par .

Rocca's gifts demolish Crenshaw

TIM GLOVER

reports from Wentworth

Italians do not win the World Match Play - but then that is not surprising because they never play in it. Costantino Rocca is different. An honours graduate in the school of hard knocks, you would not have given Rocca a price on winning the Bergamo monthly medal after what happened to him in the Ryder

Cup two years ago.
The man with the natural smile capitulated to Davis Love III over the closing holes and on the Italian's shoulders the blame for Europe's defeat at The Belfry was laid unfairly and squarely. Victims of such injustice were written off: the next thing we would see was the Rocca Horror Show. Rocca, though,

The former factory worker came back for more, qualified handsomely for the re-match at Oak Hill three weeks ago and contributed three points, exorcising all ghosts. In the fourballs in Rochester on the Friday, he and Ian Woosnam defeated Ben Crenshaw and Davis Love. Yesterday it came as no surprise whatsoever when Rocca knocked out Crenshaw in the quarter-finals of the Toyota World Match Play over the Burma Road.

"He's a beautiful golfer." Crenshaw said of the Italian. He began to wax lyrical over Rocca's swing, the crispness of his iron shots etc. Crenshaw, the Masters champion, could have used any number of excuses yesterday to explain away his defeat but to his credit he did not.

The Texan did not mention that he arrived at Wentworth a day later than he wanted because of flight problems; he did not mention that he had passed blood in his urine and was awaiting results of a test that would reveal whether he had a kidney infection and he did not mention the antibiotics that made him look, on the first tee, like a shad-



Ben Crenshaw plays away from one of the many trees that line Wentworth. This one was on the fourth as he lost 3 and 2 to Costantino Rocca

had a crick in the neck. Rocca went into lunch seven up. "Even so," he said," I did not play very good, particularly the driver. Ben did not play good." Gentle Ben shot 74 in the morning to Rocca's 67, but at least he made a fight of it in the afternoon. After going eight down, Crenshaw got it back to down, Crenshaw got it back to Elkington put out Big Monthree but at the 30th Rocca ty 2 and 1. "I ran into the wrong terday and Elkington needed to different person... I'm more Ernie Els, who beat Montder of the Burma Road.

the start of another tournament." Today he meets the Australian, Steve Elkington, in the second semi-final. On a day that belonged to an Indian summer, Elkington continued to give the impression that he has the Indian sign over Colin Montgomerie.

off an emotional victory in Augusta last April. "It's just not been my week," Crenshaw said.
"I didn't feel bad at all." He also "Tomorrow," Rocca said, "is man at the wrong time," Montgomerie said. "He never missed a makeable putt. Whenever I did something he seemed to have something extra." Monty has been down this road before with Elkington. In the US PGA Championship at the Riviera Club in Los Angeles in August, the Scotsman birdied the last three holes to draw level with

> Elkington, and was beaten at the first extra hole.

play impressive golf to keep Montgomerie at bay.

Montgomerie was eight under par for the day, his opponent 10 under. "My game rose to the challenge," Elkington said. The US PGA title was his first major and it doesn't half work wonders for the confidence. Two years ago Elkington was beaten by Nick Faldo in the quarter-finals here. Mentally I didn't feel I could beat him,"

experienced." Rocca is also a different person from two years ago. "It should be a marvellous match," said Crenshaw who, like Montgomerie, will play in the Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews next week. Crenshaw, unlike Monty, will stay at Wentworth to watch the golf. "I'm not looking forward to four days off," Monty said.

For the first time in 10 years there is no Brit in the last four.

Venables receives backing for '98

Terry Venables appeared to win significant and timely backing yesterday when Sir Bert Millichip, the Football Association chairman, said he would like the England coach to continue

until the 1998 World Cup. Sir Bert and Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, discussed Venables' contract in Oslo earlier this week. Sir Bert then expressed the view that Venables' contract should be extended - it is due to expire this summer. An FA spokesman yesterday confirmed that discussions with Venables would 'take place in the near future".

Venables has had a difficult week with speculation over his motives in leaking an approach by Internazionale (and suggestions that he might even have made it up) being followed by a dull draw for England in Norway. Millichip confirmed that he spoke to Venables about the Inter job and he believed that contaci had been made and that Venables had turned it down.

Venables made it clear this week that he would like his future to be clarified before next summer's European Championship finals. He also hinted that his preference would be to stay in coaching, rather than become the FA's new Technical Director. Millichip, who retires next summer, appears to have exing cornered by a journalist in the early hours en route back from Oslo. However, it is significant that the octogenarian was still solidly behind Venables. After all, this is the man who once said Venables would be England manager "over my dead body". In addition the FA were quick to support their

While-there is some disquiet within the FA over the England coach's various legal entanglements there is recognition both at Lancaster Gate. and in the game generally, that he is the obvious footballing choice. Indeed, the youthful nature of the side Venables is building, and its obvious promise – despite the midweek bore - suggests the 1998 World Cup finals in France offer a more realistic prospect of English success than next summer

European Championship. The two confirmed qualifiers for Euro '96, Russia and Spain, may help in England's build-up. Spain may play England in the spring while the Russians have been pencilled in to replace Portugal on 12 December if the Por-

Langer is steadfast in his slow accumulation

One of the privileges that come kinks in the swing and the ulti-longer. "What with Ryder Cup with being good enough to earn mate borror, a flawed putting and everything I think the last

dappled sunshine, the emerging tints of autumn, luscious fairways, the greens soft and holding.

Probably, this went unobserved by the golfers who have more on their minds than the flora. They seldom think to pause and smell the roses unless they are in their own gardens. Golf at this level is a pre-oc-

a handsome living from golf is troke. The worst things they see that you get work in some marvellous locations.

On a brilliant October day, Wentworth was a good example; greens, the rough, pin placed supplied synchians to complain about the defending and everything I think the last three weeks have been the toughest of my career, Bernhard Langer said after defeating Nick Price one up to win a place against the defending ings. Famously, when asked for his thoughts about an international conflict, one champion spoke absentmindedly about the most difficult par

> ments now that golfers may not always be sure where they are or what day it is and whether their legs will last out much Torrance had played in every

champion, Ernie Els, in today's semi-finals of the Toyota World Match Play Championship.

working underground or on an hree he had ever come across. oil rig but that is not a thought able to get into the gym and There are so many tournato which professional golfers work on my fitness." The things three he had ever come across. oil rig but that is not a thought give much if any considera-tion. Langer, for example, was amazed to discover that Sam

painstaking progress

tournament 10 years consecutively. "That would finish me he said. "I had a short It is a damned sight harder break in the summer but there were things to do and I wasn't Langer meant are those that enable any number of golfers to raise their earnings into multi-

In defeating Price, whose putting was wayward. Langer emphasised once again the importance he places on Teutonic to be all square for the after agonies on the greens that he noon session. Winning the last cast putters aside like so much portance he places on Teutonic thoroughness. He worries, he seldom looks happy but he never hurries. When watching Langer play the galleries are required to be patient. Where most players take one practice swing he takes good measure. Pained by Langer's pedestrian progress in one match of the Ryder Cup a there. This year he has suffered cynic was moved to observe that if golf is ever played at night

he will be held responsible.

This must not detract from

noon session. Winning the last two holes in the morning, he immediately went one up after lunch and although it was always a close match Price could not catch the German. Last year, with victories in

championships, Price was reckoned to be the best golfer out by comparison. From tee to green there is no difference in my game," he said. "It's just the

TODAY'S TEE-OFF TIMES

L Janzen (US) bt K Tornon (Japan) 7 & 6

C Rocce (it) by V Singh (Fis) 4 & 3

8.30am and 1pm E ELS (SA) v B Langer (Ger)

8.45em and 1.15pm

S ELKINGTON (Aus) v C Rocca (Italy)

inst-round results

scrap iron. If the hole was three feet from his ball he was looking at

Photograph: David Ashdown

gomerie in last year's final, and

Bernhard Langer. Els, who beat

Lee Janzen 4 and 3, benefited

from playing a practice round with Nick Price on Thursday.

"He gave me some pointers," Els said. "My ball positioning was too forward." Els went out

in the morning in 64 and was

five up. "He didn't give my any-thing," said Janzen, who had two birdies and an eagle in his

last six holes and still found him-

a nightmare. The improvisation of placing his left hand low on the shaft and stabilising it with his two and maybe another for the Open and the US PGA night brought about dramatic improvement. Langer does not miss many three-footers any more but that doesn't put a spring into his stride. The word that comes immediately to mind putting. I just don't have that he finds the game so exhausting.

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Per	4	Ī	3 4	.[5	3	4	4	4	4	3	T	4 5	4	4 3	Ţ	4 4		5	5	72		4	3	4	5	3	4	14	4	T	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	5	5	T
Yards	471	1	5 45	2	01 1	91	356	399	396	3 45	Q18	6437	76 48	3 44	41 17	94	66 3	×	571	8	6,957	•	171	152	15	2 50	119	1 35	8 39	9 39	8 4	504	36	376	483	441	175	480	380	573	150	2
E ELS (SA) won 4&3	14	12	1 3	7	4	3	4]4	4	4	13	13	1 4	74	1 2	74	1 4	7	4	4	64	5 ma	4	12	34	l c	T	1 4	ı	41	٤ŀ	3 }	3	4	4	3	7 3	1 4	Т	T	Ŧ	7
L JANZEN (US)		4-	3 4	1	4	3	4	4	5	4	3	ŀ	1 4	14	1 4	1	4 3	1	5	4	70		4	3	4	w	1	1	†	a d	•	4	2	5	3	4	2	4	╁	十	t	†
B LANGER (Get) won by 1 hole	4	1	1 4	Ī	5 [3	4	5	4	14	12	la	1 5	Ī	5 3	14	1 4	. 1	4	4	70	Lavel	4	2	14	İs	T	1 4	ı I	8 4	<u>د</u> ا	3	3	4	5	4	2	4	4	5	5	_ _
N PRICE (Zimb)		_		_	_L		_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	3	1	4	1	5	5	<u> </u>	Level	₩	1	4	4	+	-	J-	-	4	-	\rightarrow	_	┡	▙	.	-	4	4	┺	4
S ELKINGTON (Aus) won 2 & 1	4	Ta	4	Ţ	5 3	3 }	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	, 4	1	4	4	67	2 ap	4	3	4	c	3	4	14	1 3	1	4]	2	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	Ī	7
C MONTGOMERIE (See)	4	13	4	Ţ	•	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	ŀ	4		5	5	69		4	2	4	4	1	1	Ì	4	1	4	2	3	4	4	3	5	3	4	İ	1
C ROCCA (It) won 3 & 2	4	1	1 4	T	4	4	3	4	4	5	2	T	1 4	Ţ	3 3	Į	ı 3	ī	5	4	67	7 цр	4	2	5	4	14	14	T	1	ī	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	T4	Τ	Т	T
B CRENSHAW (US)	4	4	5	ŀ	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	†4	4	4	3	ŀ	1	1	6	4	74		4	3	4	4	1	1	ij	4 :	3	3	3	4	4	5	į	4	4	上	上	1
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THE INDEPEND	EN	Γ	C	R	OS	SS	37	V()F	RE)	1	P	vin	cina	.1 -	nak	_			ROS	S anyi	na (lior		a de	ah-	out.	-	2 (O ₁₁	εo	fter	ıa			WI by t		pro	zimi	ity (- of
No. 2805. Saturday 14 October							•	Ву	SĮ.	H	iuş	6	- (1	3)	-							any. J itici s	_						2	3	ers Ve	(7 ry)) gox	xd .	gol	fр	erf	OLU	1211	ce c	obs	e

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the excellent Chambers Biographical Dictionary, worth £35. Answers and winners' names will be published nxt Samrday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canado Square, Canary Wharf, Loodoo E145BL. Please use the box number and postcode. Last week's winners were: Tony Hall, Farnham, Surrey: Michael Berry, London W14; Mrs MM Perry, Leamington Spa; John Mockford, Oxfed, Surrey; HM Shewell, Newcastle.

WORLD MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND ROUND

makes a mistake, carrying diamonds about Hamper that is packed by politician with half a Dutch cheese (6)
Puritan mould in which Rector's cast (4)

Something new by way of pub cheer? (10)
Dreadful Timor meke shows how far we've come (10)
Optimistic expectation man will secure work (4)
Girl's part in untimely rebellion recalled (5)
Acquisitive Monopoly players, ambitious types? (2-

us intention, between the lines, to facilitate supp. US equipment (4-5)

19 Scare caused by a pupil with a gun, maybe (5)

21 Jumper originally available in fine lambswool, seingly attractive (4)

23 It helps get people intention, between the lines, to facilitate supply of

lps get people up (especially in the Stansted area) The universe each night revealing a different aspect (10) Small number each gets stuck on back, showing age

(4)
27 Note we take in to the Spanish commander together (2, 4) 28 Tombstone marshal to sharpen up means of receiving messages (8)

Friday's solution SCOTSMAN THETIS
E V I B O I T
APERTURE OPENER
S R A A S M O
GHAIR CHURCHILL
A C A N C N U HANGBYATHREAD
WEKRIUWH
HORSETAILSMARE
OR ATSR
ELICIT ABRASIVE
NO N L R V N
EMERGE REVERENT

2 One often crushed by the proximity of others (7)
Very good golf performance observed (such people never miss anything) (5-4)
Man embrances woman, in a manner of speaking (5)
Time it takes to finish Mass? (6, 2, 7)
Contrary, like character in nursery rhyme?

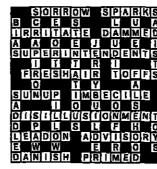
Repair footway, putting in a bit of cemen Person failing to catch tube (7)

 15 Give advance warning of transmission (9)
 17 Inject verve into line garbled by Archdea con (7)
Some feel a stick should be pliant (7)
Tired by briefing session? (7)
Vibrations loog afterwards distinguishable

try car (5)

24 Keen to have Jamaican music turned up

Last Saturday's solution



Alhaarth all the rage for the Guineas

Racing RICHARD EDMONDSON

While one superhorse, Lammtarra, was retired this week another potentially heroic figure emerged at Newmarket yesterday when Alhaarth won the Dewhurst Stakes.

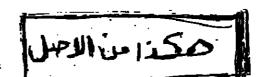
It was a fifth successive victory for the colt trained by Dick Hern, and such was the authority of his win from the previously unbeaten Danehill Dancer that Alhaarth is now as low as 2-1 (with Ladbrokes) for next spring's 2,000 Guineas. Hern has the best Classic

record of any man still training, but even he admitted this was the best two-year-old he has trained. Willie Carson, Alhaarth's jockey, added: "He is an obvious force for the Guineas; he has got a big gun. He is special every time he rums. He is a champion." Racing, pages 28 and 29

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challenge for every conductor - the works by which reputations are made or broken in the concert hall. The Beethoven Nine. At once the most familiar and yet the least knowable scores in the entire symphonic repertoire, both the bedrock and the pinnacle of the whole western tradition. Every maestro must measure up against them: Furtwängler. Klemperer, Karajan in the past, Norrington, Gardiner. Harnoncourt in our own day all have scaled their heights. Now Sir Simon Rattle has begun the ascent. And about time too. After a decade and a half in charge of the CBSO. Rattle is far and away the longest serving music director of any major orchestra. He's conducted everything from Mozart to Mahler, everyone from the period players of the OAE to the sheeny strings of the Berlin Philharmonic. But he's never yet tried his hand at a complete Beethoven cycle. Until now.

hey're the ultimate

Page 5



Pictures: Steve Hill/News Team

INSIDE STORTE

Increasingly, says the Moore, I'm thin in the Moore, I'm thin in the Moore, I'm thin in the Tarket I see that name yesteriay and I forget I ever worked with Peter Cock, I suppose, and Alan Betmett and Jonathan Miller

There was a framed copy of Winds maion's favourite consider walf of our state and its chastly faunty hertoring wants produced my weary gaze in section form.

A lot of people think it
would be nice to open a little
shop. It looks easy. They do
all the costings for going
into businesss, but they
ignore things like rent
escalation. A lot of people
have lost a lot of money

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Arts and Books





Stephen Daldry's revival of The Rat in the Skull at the Duke of York's is gut-wrenching page 6

Dickie Fantastic France pays tribute to Michael York

page 6

Reasons to be cocky

Pulp get a critical thumbs-up page 6

Some mothers Polly Toynbee and

Christina Hardyment on the new feminism

Autumn collections

A page of poetry: RS Thomas, Armitage and O'Brien reviewed, plus Auden's biography page 8

Follow my leader Roy Jenkins in the shadow of his biographical subject: Gladstone

page 9

ve been reading Pride and Prejudice recently, a novelisation of Andrew Davies's classic television series of the same name. The paperback is adorned with a full colour photograph of Colin Firth as Mr Darcy and Jennifer Ehle as Lizzie, so I think there's little doubt that it is a shameless attempt to cash in on the success of the original, now drawing over 9m viewers every week. And while I don't want to sound puritanical about it, I have to say I'm a little disappointed with the liberties that have been taken with Mr Davies's creation.

There are those, of course, who defend such translations of a work of art into another medium. They believe that

'Jane Austen (can we really believe that name? I imagine some corpulent copywriter with a

tax-bill to pay)

makes a very poor

fist of Mrs Bennett'

such processes bring the work to a new audience. And though they concede that most purchasers of the book will simply wolf it down unthinkingly and pass on, they argue that a few might be introduced to the rarefied intellectual pleasures of the classic serial. If a coarsening of the original intention takes place, then that is a reasonable price to pay.

There is something to be said for this argument, it's true, but I'm not convinced it pages it becomes clear that here is no thought of fidelity in the mind of the hack who has produced this catchpenny spin-off. On page after page,

ments of Mr Davies's work, no respect for the genre conven-tions of the television serial.

Take the characterisation first of all: Jane Austen (can we really believe that name? I imagine some corpulent copywriter with a tax-bill to pay) makes a very poor fist of Mrs Bennett. Instead of Davies's can survive the indignities of immortal creation - a charthe actual text. As you turn the acter that bears comparison to some great television predecessors - Bet Lynch in Coronation Street, Hyacinth Bucket in Keeping Up Appearances we are offered a strangely

might meet in the street, that she might live next door to you. Austen, I'm afraid, has no real

flair for grotesque caricature. At least with Mrs Bennett you feel she has tried. But Darcy is subject to truly perverse alterations. He is several times described as smiling in the book when everyone knows that Darcy's unchanging facial expression is that of a man who has just been obliged to shoot his own dog that fixed scowl is what gives the early parts of the story its

Darcy lacks this striking clarity; if you were being kind you might describe her account of him as ambiguous Vague would be closer to the truth.

There are numerous other instances of small betrayals. The socio-political context -so deftly sketched in by Davies with vignettes of the coachmen drunkenly aping their "betters" outside the assembly rooms - is completely missing in the Austen version, as if she simply couldn't be bothered to address the question of the rural poor in squirarchical economies. Speeches are lifted elsewhere: Lizzie's teasing about Mr Wickham's defection, for example, ("Hand-

thing to live on, as well as the plain") is no longer made to his face, as it is on screen, but in an aside to an aunt - which makes Lizzie appear almost decorous, rather than the feisty coquette we know and love.

Worst of all, and most mysteriously, there is hardly a word about the clothes, the interiors, the meals. Where Davies gives you a cornucopia of period detail, rich in colour and texture, Austen supplies only the most cursory descriptions. Such things are harder in prose, it's true, but Austen's indolence in this respect is unforgiveable. All she seems to care about is what people do and what they feel, not what they look like and what

Both New York and London's premier ballet companies struggled in the wake of their founders' deaths. Why has ours come off worse?

By John Percival







left), George Ballanchine (left). Photos: Robert, Zoë Martha

ne way of seeing almost every subcantial ballet company in the world vould have been, over the years, to attend the Paris International Dance Festival each autumn. This month's season by New York City Ballet offered a special interest for British visitors: to compare how well this company and the Royal Ballet are coping with the loss of their founder choreographers, George Balanchine and Frederick Ashton, who both died during the 1980s.

Some people in New York will tell you that NYCB is in a bad way. Nonsense. The five performances I have just seen in Paris showed a variety of programming and an exhibaration of performance that any British company should envy. And comparing the way these Americans danced with memories of former years showed no falling off.

My yardstick among the Balanchine works shown in Paris would be three that have been constantly in NYCB's programmes since their earliest days, and consequently have been danced by several generations of principals: the Tchaikovsky Serenade lacked nothing of its full romantic emotion, or the bounce of its lighter moments; the Bizet Symphony in C, the perfect classic showpiece for a large cast, is still given with a brilliant pace and delicacy: and two different casts in the Hindemith Four Temperaments both brought out the expressive eloquence of Balanchine's neo-anchine's former administrator, still

In fact, the company is probably stronger than ever in male dancers: an enviable team of leading men includes Albert Evans's smooth pliancy, the stylish ease of Robert LaFosse, Philip Neal's romantic presence, the forcefully explosive Jock Soto, the swift lightness of Ethan Stiefel, dazzling Damian Woetzel and the immensely powerful Igor Zelensky. True, there are not quite so many principal women in their prime as a few ears back, but a company that has Darci Kistler and Kyra Nichols outstanding among at least half a dozen others of high quality has nothing to apologise for (real ballerinas are an endangered

species everywhere today). Maybe a lighter work offers a harder test. Walpurgisnacht Ballet (music from the opera Faust) reveals Balanchine in playful mood, making the women let their hair down both literally and metaphorically. With Darci Kistler giving a smilingly ironic touch to the ballerina role, it became a far more delicious

confection than I had remembered. But Peter Martins, whom Balanchine chose and, through example and advice, trained as his successor, insists that to be a curator of Balanchine's works is not his job. Luckily there are others to take care could have it on stage within the week. of that. Within the company is a team of ballet staff who came up through the anchine's former administrator, still occupies the office next to Martins' at night to another, even the most polished orate settings and costumes. Martins sets ence he must have found!

New York State Theatre in her new capacity as head of the Balanchine Foundation. This licences and supervises productions of his works by other companies worldwide, appoints and trains people to stage them, and has begun an ambitious project to video his former dancers coaching their old roles.

Meanwhile, at the Royal Ballet most of Ashton's works moulder away, unstaged and increasingly less well remembered. There is no Ashton Foundation to look after them and encourage new productions; three of the six friends to whose care he left some of the most popular ones are already themselves ad. The Royal Ballet thinks it can keep the heritage alive without special arrangements. Judging by some recent productions, that is over-optimistic.

Another big difference is the way the two companies work. At Covent Garden, weeks of preparation go into one programme which is given a few performances, then put aside. The staff there would certainly be shocked to hear Peter Martins' remark that NYCB has more than a hundred ballets in its active reper-

NYCB, equally there are some "off nights" - the Concerto Barocco which I saw in Paris looked flaccid, for instance but no more than anywhere else.

How to account for this? Partly, the way the load is spread: NYCB lets nobody lurk unnoticed in the corps de ballet but gives solos to dancers at all levels. Partly, too, the way the dancers are trained at the company's own School of American Ballet; it is no accident that the three strongest ballet companies in the world today (in New York, Paris and St Petersburg) have what are widely thought to be the three best ballet schools.

The major factor accounting for NYCB's quality under pressure, however, must be their work ethic: you cope because you have to. And the nature of the ballets helps, with the emphasis all on choreography, on drive. There are almost no narratives, few decors and

dancers know they cannot hide.
One of Peter Martins' own ballets given in Paris makes the point clear. than a hundred ballets in its active reper-toire — by which he means that if you asked for any one of them, the dancers could have it on stage within the week.

production goes wrong occasionally. With his cast moving with tremendous energy оп ап empty stage

Energy is not the only consideration. Paris wanted to pay special homage to Balanchine's long-term colleague Jerome Robbins, so two complete programmes of his works were brought, among them the hour-long, immensely slow-moving Noh-inspired Watermill, which shows a man (the French star Jean Guizerix as guest) looking back on the seasons of his life. Some boos mingled with the cheers for that, which at least showed that people really cared.

Robbins' Goldberg Variations is even longer, covering Bach's full 75 minutes: to put that on the same bill as Watermill really strains the audience's attention, but the amazing flow of Robbins' choreographic invention rewards every moment. His latest ballet, created only last year, again the Bach piano music. usually very simple costumes. Music and dance carry the whole interest; the dancers know they cannot hid. both the dazzling simplicity and the intricacy of a dozen of the 2 & 3 Part Inventions.

Both this and Goldberg, incidentally, featured several of the many upand-coming new dancers, notable Theoretically, the Royal Ballet system should make for higher standards, but it does not always work out that way. With any live performance, things vary from one any live performance, things vary from one any live performance that way the many live performance among them the dark-haired, heart-

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Diminuendo

Turning 60, the death of Peter Cook, some naff movies and messy relationships have had a curious shrinking effect upon Dudley Moore. Perhaps his new appetite for the classics will help increase his stature.

By Giles Smith

ne lunchtime last week. Dudley Moore went to the headquarters of EMI Records in Hammersmith, London, to perform, for the entertainment of the staff there, some excerpts from his latest record. This is not, as one might assume, a recording of largely improvised conversational rudeness, in the manner of the Derek and Clive albums, and nor is it another piano-led jazz album, in the vein of the dozen such records that Moore released in the Sixties and Seventies, as a passionately indulged distraction from his comedy work. Rather, Moore's new album is a version of Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 16. Or, in other words, Dud Goes Legit.

This a fairly bracing step outwards for Dudley Moore, though it was foreshadowed in 1990 by his work with Georg Solti on the didactic television series *Orchestra!* Moore refers to the record as "a first record, my Opus One", as if this were a new beginning altogether.

That said, the recording does include some additional material. Being entirely serious has never been Dudley Moore's particular forte. So, directly after the allegro moderato, with Moore alone at the piano, we pitch into a set of seven parodies, most of them dating back to Beyond the Fringe. There's the one that imagines the "Colonel Bogey Theme" from Bridge Over the River Kwai as if it were composed by Beethoven; there's a minute-long Schubertian nightmare entitled "Die Flabbergast"; and there's "Fantaisie-impromptu in C sharp minor on Olde English Music Hall Songs", which Moore threw together in a burry one year as a present for Michael Caine on his birthday. ("I thought," Moore said, "what does Michael Caine like? I dunno. Maybe he likes music hall songs.") These skits sit at the end of this otherwise duly straight-faced recording like a musical equivalent of the smile which, when Dudley Moore appears before an audience, he is forever trying without success to suppress.

To judge by the audience that turned out at EMI, Moore amounts to a fairly unique kind of cross-over artist. The place thrummed in anticipation of his arrival—not just with the people from the classical division, but also the people from pop and from sales and marketing and promotions, hanging over a balcony and standing on the stairs, all craning their necks to get a look at the diminutive figure of Moore, in a dark silk shirt, jeans and a sports jacket, astride a piano stool at one end of the tall-ceilinged lobby area. Moore loves an audience. He is a small man and a giant ham. He gave the EMI staff a particularly energetic portion of the Grieg, his hands flying high off the keys, Then he started in on the parodies. Some low, brooding minor chords were heard, suggesting the imminence of something vast and terrible. "Daisy, Daisy," Moore sang, "Give me

His last movie role was in the doubtful farce Blame it on the Bellboy in 1992, and he hasn't really made a hit film since Arthur in 1980. Yet, in Britain, Moore's name still carries with it a kind of Hollywood buzz and he is still apt to arouse in us a not undilutedly honourable curiosity. We all know that Moore schucked off his homeland in 1973 and went to live where the sun and the money is; we're all still keen to see how it's working out.

After the EMI performance, at an honorary lunch held upstairs in the polished acreage of the EMI boardroom, the audience was smaller and Moore seemed much quieter. (Here, over grilled salmon, pumpkin risotto and a mange tout salad, Roger Lewis, the managing director of EMI Premier Label, talked to Moore about the possibility of recording some Bach, a notion that Moore seemed quietly warm towards, though there was a glass of red wine in his hand at the time.) After lunch, settling into an armchair for an interview, Moore seemed quieter still. It would, of course, be one of the major drawbacks about being Dudley Moore that people would expect you to be teary-eyed with mirth on a perpetual basis and to clinch every meeting with the "Goodbye" tune. But he seemed particularly under-charged.

He spoke slowly, drawing the words out, inserting long, reflective pauses into which some of his sentences disappeared, never to emerge. Occasionally, he would start an anecdote and let it dwindle into nothing, as if losing its thread. He taiked for a while about versions of the Grieg he had listened to in preparation for recording his own, mentioning Barenboim and Ashkenazy, before pulling himself up with the sudden realisation that he was talking about Mozart, and not about Grieg at all. At 60, Dudley Moore seemed preoccupied, above all, with alarming failures in his short-term memory.

"For instance," he said. "I met someone and I couldn't believe that I'd had lunch with them the day before. I said, 'We had lunch?' She said, 'Yes – don't you remember? Lentil soup and smoked..." Moore grimaced and shook his head slowly.

"Maybe the memory does play tricks. Increasingly, I'm thinking. 'What was their name? I knew that name yesterday.' I think that's what happens. At some point, I'll forget that I ever worked with Peter Cook, I suppose, and Alan Bennett and Jonathan Miller. I remember the death of Howard Cosell, a famous American sports commentator who wore the most horrendous toupee. I think he made a fairly wise remark – he said people fade away."

Moore brightened marginally at this point. "It reminds me of the old joke," he said. "At least, I think it's an old joke. 'What's Faye Dunaway doing now?' 'Oh, she's just Faye Dunaway."

Moore has always had a tendency towards melancholy, but it seems to have been increased in him by the death, earlier this year, of his former partner, Peter Cook. "I felt hollow," he said. "I did not know how to respond." When Moore learned that Cook had died, he called Cook's answerphone to hear his voice. Now, he says, he finds himself thinking a lot about ageing.

Moore's mother had rheumatoid arthritis when she was 50. Moore has found himself wincing in anticipation of its onset, though so far it has stayed away. "I do no physical evercise whatsoever but I'm going to have to at some point because things are starting to stiffen up." Moore then quoted a line from "some television programme". It went: "What should be soft is hard and what should be hard is soft." Moore laughed slowly. "I thought that was very funny," he said. "It's what happens to us."

We could be forgiven for imagining it would never happen to the perpetually hoyish Dudley Moore. For much of the Seventies and Eighties, Moore seemed to be permanently on honeymoon. He was married to the actress Suzy Kendall for four years, ending in 1972. Three years later, he married the actress Tuesday Weld. Their marriage lasted five years. His marriage to the model Brogan Lane in 1988 lasted only two years. His present marriage, to Nicole Rothschild, is a little over a year old and they have a three-month-old son, Nicolean, but stories of the relationship's instability are already in the papers. ("I'm not going to get into that," Moore said.) A month before the wedding, Moore was, amazingly, arrested on suspicion of "cohabitational abuse". He spent two hours in a Los Angeles police station and \$50,000 on bail. Evidently, he and Rothschild had argued while watching the Oscars ceremony on television. No charges were brought against him, and Rothschild later took the blame for the incident, claiming she had been "drunk as a skunk" at the time.

This all seemed impossibly removed from the calm Moore was said to have instilled in himself through expensive therapy. "I still stand by therapy," he said, "though I haven't done it for years. In my case, I was totally frozen for at least three years. I couldn't say a thing, couldn't come out with anything. Then I came out with everything."

Everything included a mother who had shown no affection for him. (The first kiss Moore reckons he can recall came from a nurse when he was seven.) And it included the years of Moore's childhood, which he spent in and out of hospitals, undergoing corrective surgery on his two clubbed feet. "I used to ask my mother and father, 'What happened when I was young?'," he said. "What happened?' And my mother used to fob me off."

Moore's voyage into therapy is often written about as something deeply Californian, produced as evidence of his buying the LA package whole. But you can see why the Englishman in him might have been drawn to it. There were always striking contradictions about Moore that he was helpless in the face of. He was a working-class boy from Dagenham, but he successfully operated in traditionally middle-class areas — Oxford, broadcasting. He would have to be one of only a small handful of organ scholars from Magdalen College. Oxford, who managed to go on to become international sex symbols. (Jonathan Miller once referred to Moore's "pagan, almost Pan-like ability to attract women".) And his status as a sex symbol was itself bound around with contradictions — it had to do with his representing the cuddly opposite of what a sex symbol physically amounted to. He was the bloke who wins the girl with wit. He was mock-heroic beefcake.

"I liked group therapy," he says. "I thought that was very useful because you're interacting with human beings and not just talking to a therapist, which can be aggravating, annoying." It was in a group therapy session that Moore met the film director Blake Edwards. "I said to him, 'You're a director I admire, you did all those Peter Sellers films, and I just want to stop there because this is not meant to be an audition." But that's how it worked out. In 1979, Edwards put Moore in the "sex comedy" 10 opposite Bo Derek - Bo Derek and Clive, almost - and began Moore's somewhat truncated run as a cuddly Hollywood big-shot.

He has had to cope with the aftermath of that - the inelegant and abrupt journey from "sex thimble" to cast-off, though he has never had to feel entirely frozen out. This week, back in Los Angeles, Moore will have spent three days shooting a car rental commercial. He is also scheduled to begin filming a new Barbra Streisand movie called The Mirror Has Been Broken. But clearly playing the piano occupies him now more than it ever has. He has a studio by the beach in Venice in Los Angeles, with "a Bosendorfer upstairs, a Steinway and a Yahama downstairs." But the concentrated atmosphere of the place "scares the hell out of me", so he only puts his head in every now and again. Presently, he says, he plays mostly in the house he has rented in Venice where the piano is "conveniently adjacent to the kitchen. I like playing in that 'atmosphere of patience' which Schnabel talked about. It becomes something that you just do naturally." And physically, it's something he is fit for. A problem he had with a knuckle on his left hand, he said, seemed to disperse when he changed

his diet and gave up eating dinners.

As he sits and plays, he is still prone to drift into jazz—
"a chord and some jazz above it, just doodling". And the first programmable button on his car radio is a jazz station. "The car is the only place where I listen to music. There is no hi-fi in the house. I choose not to have one."

I asked him why he hadn't felt drawn to enter classical

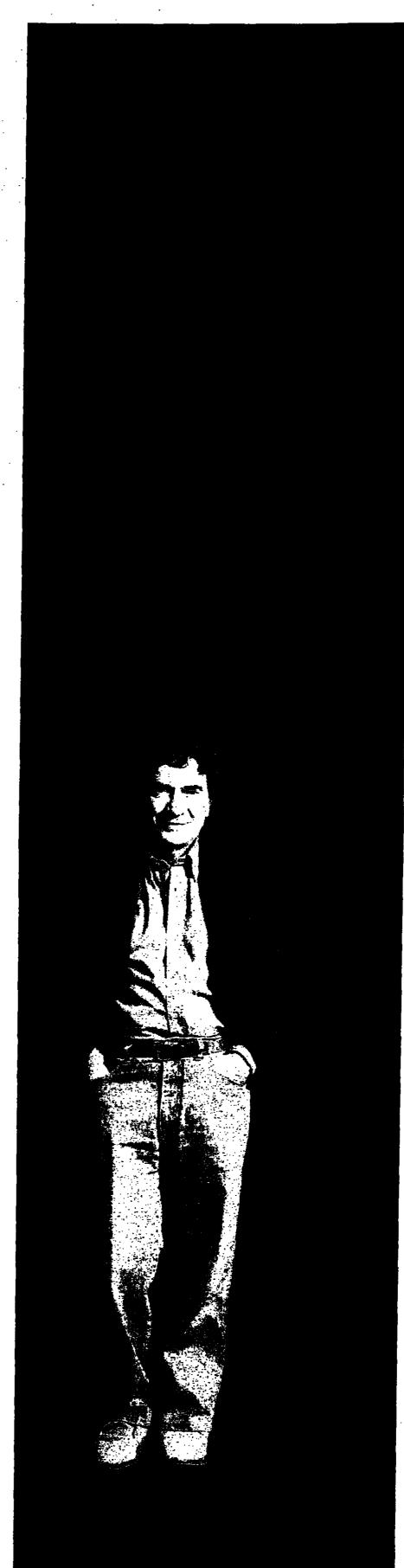
I asked him why he hadn't felt drawn to enter classical musical earlier. "It was the classical world's bitchiness," he said. "That's what put me off for so long. There is so much competition. It seemed be-smeared with venom. That's why I like coming from behind as an actor; an actor that does music is of interest, it seems."

How seriously can we take a Dudley Moore performance of Grieg? It might not help that the last comedian to record Grieg's Piano Concerto was Eric Morecambe, under the baton of Andre Previn in one of the truly great Morecambe and Wise sketches. ("I am playing all the right notes," Morecambe insisted, "but not necessarily in the right order.") When the world knows you best for your ability to grate the high against the low and spark a laugh, it's always going to be tough attempting to stick solely to the high-ground. This is the additional burden Moore carries into a serious classical rendition; he has to convince you somehow that he is not about to burst into song.

"I wasn't haunted by the memory of Eric Morecambe."
Moore said. "Maybe I should have been. But I gave a fairly
serious performance of it — suitably grave. And I'm now
troubled unduly by how it will be received. I have become
fatalistic about responses to my music. I have made up my
mind that I will be received and ridiculed in a certain way,
so I don't read any newspaper. Unless the review is entirely

in the nature of a genuflection, I don't like to read it.

"The point is, I think there are some wonderful tunes in the Grieg. It's hard to ignore it. Schnabel once said, how can you like a concerto that goes 'der der da-da dum-flump' and so on. I don't have any hope or prospect of recording modern concertos, partly because I'm not that fond of them and partly because... I'm not that fond of them and partly because... I'm not that fond of them. It would seem daft to record a concerto that you didn't feel fond of – a waste of time." And for the first and only time in our conversation, Moore dropped into character, fluttering his eyelids and intoning, preciously, "For who knows when the good Lord will take?"



Moore has always had a tendency towards melancholy, but it seems to have been increased in him by the death, earlier this year, of his former partner, Peter Cook, "I felt hollow," he said. "I did not know how to respond." When Moore learned that Cook had died. he called Cook's answerphone to hear his voice. Now, he says, he finds himself thinking a lot about ageing

Photograph by Herbie Knott

What a nice man — what a very nice man

David Patterson has a mild obsession: to find anyone who will say something mean about the designer Paul Smith. Not a chance



Paul Smith: 'I am an okay designer, and an okay businessma

suits whatever they were doing tonight (except, perhaps, for attending a Versace launch party).

They are Paul Smith people through and through - beautiful-ish, rich-ish, individual-ish, British. A microphone has been set up in the

corner, next to a framed poster for a recent Oxford Union season of events. Many guest speakers are listed on the poster – Max Clifford, Joseph Heller – but only two are cir-cled in green ink. Paul Smith and Kermit the Frog. For all of this over-whelming pomp and glamour, Smith would like us to know, he is only a muppet (albeit, like Kermit, the chief muppet — you wouldn't get Fozzie Bear invited to speak at the Oxford Union).

Then Terence Conran and Jeremy Issacs take the stage, and eulogies (as you'd expect). The eulogies, however, are ebullient enough to temper any cyncism. These are super eulogies. Jeremy Isaacs: "Probably the most extraordinary and remarkable man I have ever the end out and move to London. (We can read Pauline's diary from the time:

Terence Conran: "A true Brit. A credit to this country. If there were more people alive like Paul Smith, Britain would surely be a greater place. Let's give him a resounding cheer!" Everybody cheers, heartily.
Paul Smith blushes, and sticks up his

Paul Smith is every profile writer's nightmare, for he seems genuinely to be the world's most liked man. His likeability, it seems, transcends analysis: it is ubiquitous and boundless. ("He knows everything about football. We talked for ages about in Smith.

George Best. Fantastic. One of the As does lads" - a journalist from Loaded

intended to dig up the dirt and rake in a permanent state of Not-Believ-

ing a Paul Smith suit. True, this is the launch of the Paul Smith someone who has anything in the ing a Pain Smith suit. Irue, this somethic who has anything in the is the launch of the Paul Smith tribute exhibition, but one would assume that these people would be wearing Paul Smith god for Paul Smith"—the Independent, March 1994.)

Somethic who has anything in the least bit mean to say about him: nobody can, surely, be that impecable. But it is to little avail. ("Thank God for Paul Smith"—the Independent, March 1994.)

And now that all the superlatives And now that all the superlatives have been exhausted, the "Man Who Has, and Deserves, Everything" (Sunday Times) has been given something new - this elaborate and fine Design Museum exhibition, dedicated to the life and myth. Like the suits, Paul Smith is an uncomplicated - if slightly goofy - fellow designed to be painted in broad strokes, as the exhibition deftly does.

2. Fell off his bicycle aged 17. Months in hospital. (An exact

replica of the bicycle - buckled wheel intact - begins the exhibition.) 3. Started selling T-shirts from a

read Pauline's diary from the time: "Just came home. We are all very

5. Now owns 146 shops in Japan.
6. Likes toy trains.
7. Everyone likes him.

The quintessential salt of the earth, suggest these broad strokes, is awed by his own life and accomplishment. Indeed, one corner of the exhibition is dedicated to nice letters he's received from people like Bruce Weber, which would be perceived as vanity in most, but comes out as something akin to ingenuous charm

As does everything else. The ads" – a journalist from Loaded accent, the demeanour, is parochial (if slightly effete) Nottingham Although I certainly hadn't through and through. It is as if he's

the Design Museum is packed the muck. I have become rather ing-His-Luckness. "I am an OK tonight, and everyone is wear-ungraciously obsessed in finding designer," he has said, "and an OK businessman."

This self-deprecation is not to be taken seriously, of course. He had a wonderfully simple idea, which he has executed beautifully: how to transform The Suit into a personal expression of subtly kooky, yet nicely wealthy, individuality.

Paul Smith suits go well with Filo-

faxes and boxer shorts (both popularised by Smith), but just as well with toy sculptures of spagnetti (which you can also purchase in his shops). Jack Nicholson, David Bowie, David Hockney - they are all Paul Smith men. I am reminded of the Jeff Daniels character in Some-

eftly does.

And these are they:

1. Down-to-earth Credit Trader

"I am a rebel," he announces. "I just channel it in the mainstream." For in interviews and important meetings. Smith has a tendency to suddenly announce, with a twinkle

in his eye: "I'm bored."

After this, he produces a model train set, or bangs a squeaky toy hammer on the table, or - if he is working in his Covent Garden exbanana warehouse office - slides down the spiral staircase, while whooping with glee. He goofily sticks up his thumbs in approbation like an impeccably stylish Krankee or Peter Stringfellow, or an autumnal Jean-Paul Gaultier.

But - in conversation, at least - he is a man for all seasons. When I wonder aloud to the journalist from Loaded whether Smith is the sort to guilefully manipulate his character to whatever company he's in - and, if so, what would that suggest about

his disposition – he jumps hastily to the designer's defence.

"No. Honestly. He prefers to talk about George Best."

But then: "He's just the most charming, wonderful man I've ever met," says a rather lofty fashion buyer who wishes to remain nameless. "We spoke for hours about architecture. He's so knowledgeable. And serious, too.

"Did you know that he refused his-

nomination for British Designer of the Year as a protest against the lack of government support for the

of government support for the industry?"

"Why," I ask, "do you want to be anonymous if you've only got nice things to say about him?"

"I just don't want to take the chance," she replies, softly. "Who knows? He might be angry."

This, it transpires, is doubtful. Paul Smith says he has never, ever lost his temper, even, it seems, aged 17 This was the age, of course, when 17. This was the age, of course, when he famously and painfully fell off his racing bicycle and did not become meiancholy or enraged at an unjust

world.

"I just realised that there's more to life than riding a bike," he said. But the temperance and eccentricity belong to a man who knows he is in charge. The spiral staircase he whoopingly slides down leads straight to his employees' offices, designed, it is said, so he an eye on them. Interestingly, too, many journalists have complained that he will invariably terminate the interview at the appointed minute ("The second!" exclaims one. "The second hand went to 12, and he second hand went to 12, and he immediately stood up and shook my hand!"). And it is very easy, of course, to bang a squeaky hammer during a very important meeting if the people around the table all work

But this is churlish nit-picking. I never did find anyone with a gripe against Paul Smith. Maybe he really is - as Loaded has claimed - the Greatest Living Englishman. He certainly fulfils all the vital prerequisites – a liberal down-to-earth manner tinged with harmless buf-foonery: a suit that makes us look interesting and unique, but not too interesting or unique. And, lest we forget (as Paul Smith has reminded more than one journalist). Nottingham is situated in the very, very centre of England.

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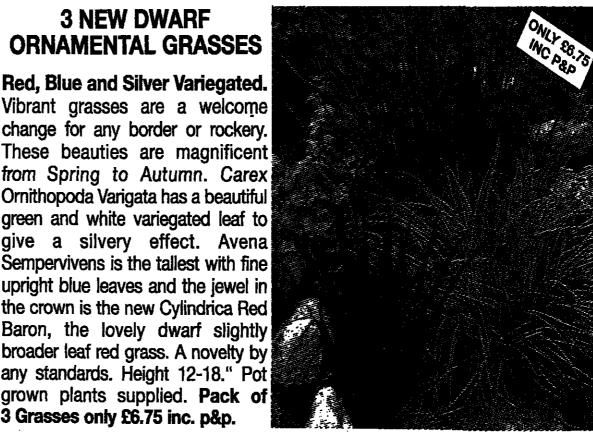
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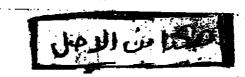
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Beethoven was always too much. He's not slightly anything, he's very everything . . . It takes its toll. Preparing this music, conducting it, playing it, you feel yourself stretched on some kind of psychological rack'

With five down and four to go, Edward Seckerson listens in as Sir Simon Rattle prepares to complete his first Beethoven symphony cycle

Count Waldstein to Ludwig van Beethoven, patron to protégé. No doubt his famous remark was well-intentioned, well-meaning, offered in a spirit of optimism and encouragement. What are patrons for, if not to patronise? But little did he know. Waldstein had heard the future, invested in it, but he could have had no conception of the return.

It was to be a further eight years before Beethoven went public with his First Symphony. And he wasn't about to receive anything from Haydn's hands. Take, yes, snatch, seize and transform; reinvent. The Second Symphony was perhaps the last point at which Haydn could make any real sense of where Beethoven's music was going. That's a Haydn symphony fit to burst. The Third, the "Eroica" - one of only a handful of works truly to change the course of musical history - was forged from the will to live in the face of a desire to die: music of spiritual necessity, defiant, intransigent, tragic and comic, human and divine, sublime and ridiculous, inevitable and ineffable. Revolutionary music for a revolutionary age. And ever after. "Es muss sein," said Beethoven: "It must

Sir Simon Rattle is presently contemplating the wider implications of those three little words. Sooner or later, they all do - the great and the good, the not so good. This is one rite of passage that comes to them all: a first complete cycie of the Beethoven Symphonies. In Birmingham, in London, and – in the course of one daunting week in November – in Frankfurt, Rattle will reveal all – and more – of himself. He is weary, elated, anxious, more than a little awed.

Let's put it into perspective. Last summer, he and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra set down 53 pieces of contemporary music in seven days for a new Channel 4 TV series. But even that was as nothing, but nothing, he says. compared to the challenge, the responsibility; of Beethoven's Nine. When the most celebrated, the most revered, the most played symphonies in musical literature beckon, conductors prepare to be judged and found wanting. You may have carned the right to try, and even fail, but nowhere are a conductor's shortcomings, a conductor's mistakes so audible as they are here. As Rattle himself says: "There is simply nowhere to hide."

"This music is merciless. Beethoven is the clearest mirfor that we have. He tells you exactly where you are in every sense - musically, spiritually, rhythmically, in terms of the imagination. Look, even Goethe shied away from Beethoven's presence. He couldn't take it. It wasn't just that they were so different, that Beethoven was eccentric and Goethe patrician - it was this stunning honesty and directness. It was inescapable, it made people very, very uncomfortable. Remember that the person closest to Beethoven - his nephew Curl - tried to commit suicide in an attempt to break free of his influence. I mean, when Beethoven's brother died, he basically kidnapped Carl. And Carl simply couldn't take it, this smothering, suffocating, overpowering presence.

Beethoven was always too much. He's not slightly anything, he's very everything. The drama is very extreme; so is the humour. Suddenly, I'm grateful for all the Mahler I've conducted. It's these amazing contradictions - from suicidal to witty within a bar. But it takes its toll. Preparing this music, conducting it, playing it, you feel yourself stretched on some kind of psychological rack."

ith the help of assiduous labour you shall receive Mozart's spirit from Haydn's hands." is a bit of a stretch. Rattle and his orchestra are limbering up for a first rehearsal of the Fourth Symphony. No fine detail as yet. This first few minutes is for loosening the fingers, elevating the pulse-rate. We are coming out of the slow introduction - Rattle offers a running commentary over the music, a few preliminary pointers: "Think of these chords as long shadows," he tells his strings; "very little vibrato... and winds, no beginnings to your chords... take them out of the air, pale and mysterious... Now firsts, lean into that G-flat just a shade" - the intensity is building now towards the allegro vivace - he is shouting now over the crescendo - "Reach...
reach... reach... but save something for the fortissimo... yes. HERE" - and they're off the blocks into the sprint.

> So much for the warm-up. Now detail. God is in the detail. "Can I deliver my yearly lecture on the placing of the first chord? Strings, wait until you actually hear the wind chord before you play your pizzicato - it should literally drip off the end of the wind chord..." The late Herbert von Karajan taught him that little trick. So you see, something valid can be drawn from the shadows of former times - discredited times?

> Actually, Rattle doesn't see it like that. He sees himself in the very privileged position of having come to this music via Mozart and Haydn - and that in itself by design, not chance - from a generation of musicians whose good fortune stems almost entirely from the benefits of hindsight. "Any thinking musician of my generation cannot help but be a product of the gigantic flux of performing styles which have informed the last 40 years..."

> The great inspirational "traditionalists" of the post-Wagnerian era, like Furtwangler and Klemperer and Karajan. and now the radical "back-to-basics-with-hindsight" revelations of period performance practitioners as diverse as Norrington, Gardiner and Harnoncourt - Rattle has drawn something from them all. But in the small hours when he is alone with just his thoughts, his instincts, his scores, the most important thing to remember is not to remember. The remembrance of things past - remembered interpretation, remembered emotion - is a real problem for young musicians tackling core-repertoire today.

So each performance is a first performance. Nothing can be taken on trust. And Rattle's considerable international reputation (the world continues to squabble over his available dates) is founded entirely upon his ability - his genius
- for doing just that. We've heard and yet not heard these
great works. With Beethoven, the shock of newness must

prevail, each and every time. "No one is pretending that we are playing Beethoven's music the way he would have heard it..." But might we be playing his music the way he would like to have heard it? "I know what you're getting at. But it doesn't quite follow. Having worked with period instruments, we know what they will do naturally. The fact that Beethoven wanted something more than the instruments will do naturally does not necessarily stretch all the way to saying that he wanted what a symphony orchestra in the 1960s would have played. Because there are problems with notation for a start. The same notation meant different things in different times. Note values were entirely different: the whole concept of sostenuto _ 'sustaining' - was different. So you have to evolve an understanding of all the expressive 'grammar' of the time -the pronunciation of this music - and how best to apply it now. So I will say to players: always think in terms of one strong beat and two lighter beats.

"Almost the most important thing we've learnt from petle, "is a real beginning of the universe moment... that whole
riod performance of this music is the idea of 'pronouncing'.

"Almost the most important thing we've learnt from petle, "is a real beginning of the universe moment... that whole
riod performance of this music is the idea of 'pronouncing'.

Phrases must begin. It's like words: you never say 'Beetho-ven' - it's ungrammatical. So that's fundamental. Then there's vibrato: I say, think of it as an effect, an adornment, not the norm; think of sforzandos as expressive and fortepianas as really sudden, and staccatos as not necessarily short. think Beethoven means dissonances to be more stressed than consonances - it's the shock tactician in him. So there's your basic vocabulary to be taken and fashioned into sen-

tences, paragraphs, chapters..." On this particular Monday afternoon, it's very much a

word-by-word process. The rehearsal makes haste slowly. "A lot of what we are achieving here with bowings is good it just takes a lot of Weetabix. Remember, fiddles, as we start the allegro vivace, those little grace-note flourishes should be crisp like castanets..." And Rattle works painstakingly with his players on how best to achieve precisely that articulation. Much is implicit in Beethoven's phrase markings (staggeringly, there is still no published urtext of the Beethoven Symphonies incorporating all the latest research on extant sources: Jonathan Del Mar's edition, used now by Rattle and others, should be argently recognised as such). The slow movement brings different problems: "Where

the most pain is, we need the least vibrato," he tells his strings an eloquent note, achieving eloquent results. Likewise in the rumbustious finale, with its busily subversive figurations: "Think of them as a rumour..." Rattle's way with words makes music. It's never just about the notes but about the reasons for them, he reminds his players, recalling some-thing Kurt Sanderling once said to the Los Angeles Philharmonic while preparing the Ninth Symphony: "I don't care that you play together and in tune, because unless you understand that this sound is praying for mercy, you will not get the right expression." And expression is communication, conductor to orchestra, orchestra to audience. Watch Rattle in performance. There's a reason for every gesture: you really do hear what you see. If you see him cue, coax, cajole a player or group of players, you can be sure that what you hear will illuminate, intensify the musical image. The black magic is all in the balance and the phrasing and, finally, the characterisation.

Robert Schumann once described Beethoven's Fourth Symphony as "a slender Greek maiden between two Nordic giants" (namely the Third and Fifth Symphonies). But the Fourth according to Rattle is neither slender nor maidenly. Any more than the Eighth is merely jocular. How perceptions of great art change. At the turn of the century, there were still those for whom Mozart's G minor Symphony (No 40) was "charming and rococo". Which begs another question. Are we now better placed, better distanced, to view these works objectively, to see them as they really are? Or are our perceptions still coloured by the times in which we live?

"Well, I suppose it's inevitable that we are still looking for things that confirm the way we feel at the end of the 20th century. So we will tend to see more darkness than even Beethoven will have seen. Where people of his time will have heard only affirmation, we might now hear fragmentation and doubt. And yet it still holds true that most of Beethoven is a journey through from doubt to affirmation - culminating,

of course, in the Ninth."

The Ninth. If ever a work began groping in the darkness, this is it. Where does it begin? Does it begin? Long before we hear anything, that's for sure. "That opening." says Rat-

he started painting on the frame or even the wall, as though the canvas couldn't contain the work..." And this is the moment when Rattle brings on the full might of the modern orchestra with double winds, not for weight but for "relays", so physically taxing is the piece. He's also ready to adjust the size of his band (as Beethoven surely did) according to the size of venue he's playing. Now that's what I call historically well-informed thinking.

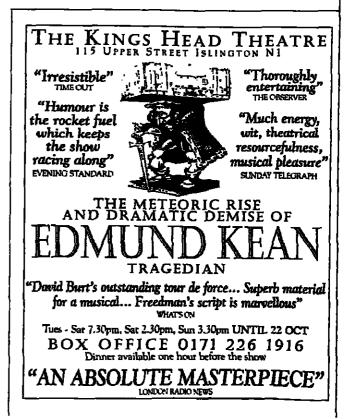
Rattle still maintains that he didn't fully grasp the Ninth - and particularly the choral finale, so used and abused in all manner of contemporary connotations - until he saw Part 2 of Goethe's Faust as realised by Simon Callow some years ago. "It's the surreal lunacy, the innocence of it. It's that kind of joy, not some grand, monumental, banner-waving triumph. Like the *Pastoral* symphony, it's the grandson of Haydn's *Creation*, only the vision is that of a more troubled soul. It's got the gravediggers, too." And it's got the lowest note possible on the contra-bassoon: "a celestial passing of wind," Rattle calls it. Editors of the day thought it wasn't playable, so they changed it. Along with much else. Again, all credit to Jonathan Del Mar's diligence.

all credit to Jonathan Del Mar's diugence.

It's at times like this that conductors talk of taking journeys and climbing mountains. Rattle is more specific. "It's K2, isn't it? Right now, it's quite hard to see beyond it." But he will. On the horizon is Wagner, the man who so wanted to re-compose Beethoven in his own image. When you're through climbing mountains, you go in search of the Holy Grail. Parsifal. Amsterdam, 1997. Now there's a date for the diary.

Rattle conducts Beethoven Symphonies: Nos 6 & 7 Birm-

Rattle conducts Beethoven Symphonies: Nos 6 & 7 Birmingham Symphony Hall Tuesday, Barbican Friday; Nos 8 & 9 Birmingham 25 Oct, Barbican 27 Oct. Booking: Birmingham 0121-212 3333; London 0171-638 8891



television Heroes of Comedy (C4)

Tommy Cooper was funny. But why? Jasper Rees is left in the dark

hey say poetry is the new rock 'n' roll. Before that they said comedy was. So how come there's been an Oxford Professor of Poetry for years while the two comparable forms of entertainment are still not on any university syllabus? You can see it happening for rock 'n' roll, what with all those musicologists poring over Beatles' chord progressions and rushing their findings to the printers. Somehow, it wouldn't work for comedy. A cursory study of Heroes of Comedy will demonstrate why.

First up for assessment in a six-part series was Tommy Cooper. A bit like Milton, or Elvis, no one argues about how good he was. He was very good, even great, possibly the best. Unlike Milton, or Elvis, no one can really explain why he was good. That's the thing about being funny: you can't take to bits and determine what makes

Eminent Cooperologists understand this. Most of those consulted testified that all Cooper had to do was come on stage to get a laugh. Paul Daniels recalled an event at which the comedian was invited to speak. As soon as he stood up he brought the house down. "Now I don't care how much you study comedy," said Daniels, "you can't define that." And even if you can, you certainly can't fill two sides of A4

It's not unreasonable to assume that Paul Daniels has never slain an audience by merely standing up. Accepting that as a given, we can therefore deduce that he was reading in Cooper a compendium of his own shortcomings. Cooperology brings that out in people: every-one else seemed to see something in him that they lacked too. Spike Milligan, the most chronically depressed comedian still living, argued that "the face was a call for help". Anthony Hopkins recalled his astonishment at discovering that Cooper was a Welshman. The Welsh are many things but they are not come-dians, as Hopkins ruefully admitted and as was illustrated by a cleverly cut sequence showing the two men telling the same joke.

So this was academic enquiry with fairly nar-row parameters. Hopkins was the only surprise guest among a host of usual suspects. Gwen Cooper's were the only female memories, and that's because she was married to him (which didn't always sound like a bundle of laughs). And there were no young comedians kneeling at his feet. As Cooper was a proto-surrealist, it might have been enlightening to hear from

Once it was established that Cooper specialised in the comedy of error, of getting things wrong to sometimes brilliant effect, beyond that there was little option but to offer endless, very funny examples of his craft. An examiner marking this essay would find it much stronger on quotation than argument. And because this wasn't the first tribute to Tommy Cooper, nor the second nor even the third, some of the quotations were as familiar as the most famous lines. To tee hee or not to tee hee? There's no answer to that question.

overview.

critical view

on view

theatre Rat in the Skull, Duke of York's

Stephen Daldry has rippped up a West End theatre for the revival of a classic about the Troubles. But does the production transcend spectacle? By Paul Taylor



Tony Doyle as DI Nelson (left) and Rufus Sewell as Roche: Trapped in the same cycles of mutual hatred

hy does a renowned RUC detective inspector, despatched to England to interrogate a young IRA suspect and turn him informer, choose to throw away his career and flush the prosecution case down the pan by subjecting the Catholic to a ferocious beating the moment they are finally alone? This is the puzzle dangling over Rat in the Skull, Ron Hutchinson's award-

winning 1984 play.

In Stephen Daldry's revival – the first in a West End season of Royal Court classics - that query is initially upstaged by another realisation that, trapped in the same cycles of mutual hatred, he question. Namely, why has the director elected to forswear the austere simplicity of the original staging and convert the sedate prosce-nium-arched purlieus of the Duke of York's into a baleful prison environment? The stalls area is now covered over with clanging metallic walkways, and at the centre of these, there's a diamond-shaped, earth-filled pit. The enveloping auditorium is hung with photographs evoking the Troubles. It's all very striking, but does serving a sentence in these surroundings serve the play well?

Though Rufus Sewell's IRA youth has to make conscientious use of his swivel-chair to ensure each half of the audience gets to gawp at his brilliantly acted twitching / flinching resistance to the interrogator's onslaught, there's no doubt that positioning this pair in a central pit heightens a sense of the confrontation's ritual nature and that proximity to the action gives an unnerving immediacy. On the other hand, the design at times imposes awkward distances between interlocutors or sends people on lengthy artificial detours or picks out certain themes with an over-diagrammatic clarity.

Burly, florid-faced, sportily-blazered, with intimidating body lanrage made all the more unsettling by abruptly switching tack, Tony Doyle's superb RUC man parades the supposedly vast differences between himself and the youth he is interrogating in long, scaldingly sarcastic arias that are, in fact, mordant parodies of Protestant / Catholic stereotyping in Ulster. Doyle looks like a man sitting on a powder keg, but the play fools you at first about the cause and object of this pent-up anger. What it dramatises it is painful and object of this pent-up anger. and the suspect have more in common with each other than he has with the English police, and it is significant that they jointly conspire to be left on their own by the inexperienced supervising constable (Pearce Quigley). William Dudley's design has them literally occupying a different patch of earth, onto which Quigley and John Castle's English superintendent contemptuously toss their cardboard coffee cups at the end, as they abandon them to their cardboard coffee cups at the end, as they abandon them to their

ancestral, deathly symbiosis. At such moments, it's a bit like having somebody whispering "geddit?" in your ear.

Looked at from a post-ceasefire perspective, certain details in the play bave dated. It remains and will remain a classic, though, not least because of the compelling ambiguity of the RUC man's violence: an attempt to break free from the programmed patterns of hatred (no case left, no names extorted) through an explosion of what looks (and maybe feels) like atavistic vengeance.

Duke of York's Theatre to 18 Nov; (0171-836 5122)

GLYNN GRITTITHS

music CBSO / Simon Rattle

Jan Smaczny on a varied performance of Beethoven's first five symphonies

The stylistic freshness that distinguished Rattle and the CBSO's performances of Beethoven's First and Third Symphonies at Birmingham's Symphony Hall last month has also infected the programming of the whole series. The Second Symphony was accompanied by the series of the second Symphony was accompanied by the series of the second Symphony was accompanied to the series of th nied by the three Leonora overtures and the much shorter Fidelio overture. Potty but provocative, it seems that this combination, with Fidelio between Leonorus Nos 2 and 3, was first attempted by no less an authority than Mahler. The experiment proved fascinating.

The revelation was what these new perspectives did for Leonora No 2. Played on its own this piece can sound sprawling, almost incompetent; heard between the superb finish and assurance of the other Leonoras it came over as a much more experimental piece - almost like Berlioz in its use of modulation, and genuinely romantic in its less conscious-

ly Viennese image of development. Rattle's reading of the Second was disappointing after the magnificence of his First and Third. The finale was too fast for comfortable orchestral articulation and, while the hectic speed illuminated aspects of the harmonic structure, it constricted the visionary qualities of this remarkable movement. Worse still was the permarkable movement. formance of the Scherzo, a difficult movement to get the measure of at the best of times, with its jerky, disparate gesture and apparent changes of tempo. Rather than responding to the sheer oddity of the piece, it was played straight at a measured pace that killed any chance of fun.

No such problems with Nos 4 and 5 on

Wednesday; both works emerged as a near-per-fect blend of calculation and instinct with every detail fully formed; never mind that some aspects of string ensemble still need attention. The Fourth Symphony has a tendency to bring out the best in all those who perform it. Even so, the elegance and attentiveness brought to this score showed the work in its true light as the progenitor of the integrity of the Fifth as well as foreshadowing the generous breadth of the Pastoral. Nor were there any of the problems with the Scherzo that had marred Rattle's performances of the Second and Third Symphonics. The rapid pace of the finale was daring and, occasionally, dicey, but the grace and energy given to the themes that float above the vigorous opening proved the experiment more than worthwhile.

If Beethoven's Fourth Symphony has a tendency to welcome performers in, the Fifth can be the rock on which they founder. I remembe the rock of which they founder. I remember a performance of the Fifth by Rattle and the CBSO that almost failed to register any real effect. In their present reading, it all adds up. Rattle's underplaying of the recapitulation in the first movement made for a thrilling coda, and the frankly militaristic brass in the slow movement added immeasurably to the effect of the violin lines. Even more remarkable was a finale in which the orchestra's clear delight never stood in the way of the thrill and logic of the close.

STUART MORRE



THEFILM THE NEON BIBLE

Terence Davies, one of chierna's gertuine originals, makes his first American film based on John Kennedy Toole's novel and staming Gena Rowlands: Despite the genius of the images, Adam Mars-lones telt strangely cheated. "Slow, but packed with epiphanies... to be treasured as the work of a uniquely talented film-maker," ediograed Time Out. "A heartbreaking masterplece," declared FD. "Title

Financial Times. "Disappointingly, a film you watch at a distance," concluded the Times. At one of London's finest cinemas the Lithier (0171-836 0691) - and selected screens across

Proust gone to the Deep South," observed line:

Film-making for the big screen. To see it on video is to

THE NOVEL THE ISLAND OF THE DAY BEFORE

The latest from Radian academic strates of Economic crossed Who Mademed the Months' with semicides and let pay-did with the Name of the Mass.

Robert Winder Acted of the epilogne. "It is a gamble to insist that what we have just need is a whole of the . Readers can be largiver. It has dealers of the . Readers can be largiver. It they do not taugh." "A jot of learning is a dangerous thing," uponed the Standay Imes but praised "the eluberative of the odinative". "A skulled parade of recent literally theory and bushony of science. But It exercises quades rather than hearts. The Topies.

Translated by William Weaver and published by Sector at £16.99.

Eco loss Burges and Calugar They both knew that brevity was the soul of this kind of set. This novel is over 500

DIN THE SHILL

e Designatives for Australians and Australia

Duke of Yorks Triestre mult 16 Novem (0171-836-8122)



PULP

spanning and chartsmatte as ever, the thingue-cheek baild have climbed out from beneath a we probabled exposure for a tour.

Prior Sible) was slightly unconvinced. He was, septimizing above. "Oristage they are staggering children distance." Oristage they are staggering children distance and compellingly untathornable larvis Occies is a star," entrused Melody Maker. The Smiths," sang the Independent on Septime. "Cocker is rapidly becoming an unlikely but origin, inspirational spokesman for a lost generation distanced to find itself again." Thus spake MME.

The band play Liverpool tonight, Cardiff on Standar, Next week Exeter, Brighton and Landon Check local press for details.

Cocker is what happens when a nerd goes a-vogueing, but the band's rise appears



TONY BUCKINGHAM



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EXCELLENT 4 G000

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0K

POOR

DEADLY

'Unless the accolade comprises la plume de ma tante, I won't know what the hell is going on'

■ednesday, and a startling invitation arrives requesting my presence at the Institute Français, where Michael York and Peter Greenaway are to be awarded Les Lettres d'Honneurs in the presence of ambassadorial notables. Convinced that my name has made it to the list wholly by error, I do the gentlemanly thing and phone the French Embassy to check that they've got it right.

"Oh yes, please come," drawls Cyril, the French cultural attaché. "You are most welcome." And then he adds, "And it would be very nice if you could find some reception, which is packed with sophisti-

time to say hello to Michael York."

This isn't the offer of an informal chat, of course. This is every schmoozer's worst nightmare: The Mandatory Showbiz Interview. I have nothing against Michael York, but the notion of being part of an international journalistic gang-bang fills me with dread. Also, my knowledge of French is lamentably limited, and unless the accolade being bestowed comprises la plume de ma tante, I won't know what the hell is going on.

But I swallow my pride and head to the

ing Romanian journalist. Michael York is the centre of attention - Peter Greenaway is nowhere to be seen - and a gaggle of French journalists (and the Romanian) surround him, interviewing him in only the

way that the French (and Romanians) can. "Monsieur York," begins one. "First let me say that it is the highest privilege to be interviewing you at this time." "Thank you," says Michael York, and

adds, "but the honour is all mine." "Let me add," says another, "that your influence upon the industrie cinématique

cated French attachés and a sorry-look- is inestimable, and, on behalf of the French people, I must offer my respect at this moment of honour. And, also, did you

enjoy working with Jeanne Moreau? Very much so," says Michael York. "Tell ... me," begins the Romanian, with interminable slowness, "1... have... a... question... for... the... population... of... no... that... is... wrong...

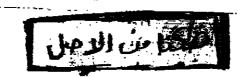
"Hmmm?" says Michael York "People!" exclaims the Romanian, "I have a question for the people of Romania!" "Hmmm?" says Michael York. "Your question, sir."

"Ah!" says the Romanian. "Yes! It... York, "so thank you very much for this concerns... Liza... Minnelli... um..."

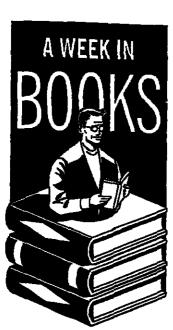
But there is no time, the ceremony is about to begin, and we hurriedly take our seats. Peter Greenaway is still not here, which leaves Michael York standing alone to the left of the stage. After a few choice words - and a promise that after the ceremony we will be shown a lengthy 1895 silent film portraying street scenes from around the world, Michael York is given a medal, which he pins to his chest. There is a rapturous applause. "I very much like France," begins

marvellous honour."

Then the lights go down, and we are shown the 1895 film, which begins in Paris (lots of people with big moustaches walking very quickly down the street). After Paris, we go to Berlin (also lots of people with big moustaches walking very quickly down the street), followed by Mexico (lots of people with big hats and big moustaches sitting around in dirt). Thirty-five minutes later (Tokyo very thin moustaches), and I'm afraid to admit I sneak off home.







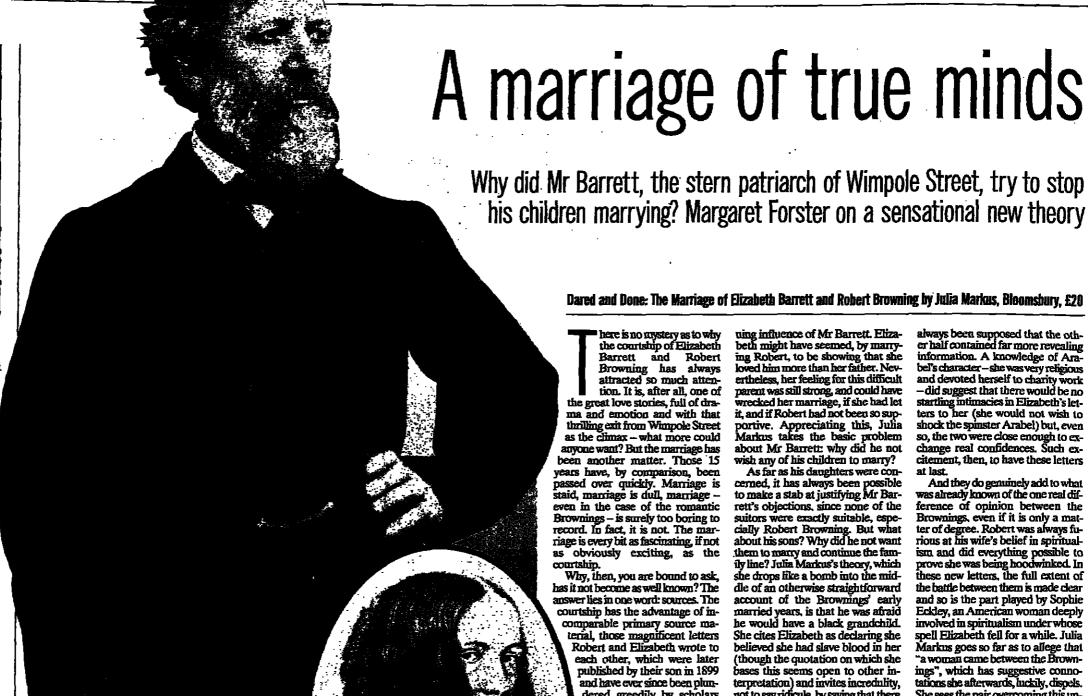
INDEPENDENT WEEKEND • SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 1995

Roger Whittaker once had a hit song called "I Don't Believe In If Any More". I know the feeling. I went off Kipling's poem around A-level time. There was a framed copy of it on the wall of our breakfast room and its ghastly, jaunty hectoring would meet my weary gaze on too many mornings. Its fans might speak of its "moral authority" or its worldly wisdom. but I was never fooled. It's a terrible poem. It is terrible in a variety of ways. It comes on one minute like a British version of the Ten Commandments (thou shalt be cool, modest, restrained, understated, decent, docile, dogged...) then haves off into curious, unexplainedly subversive terrritory (thou shalt also be reckless, relentless, socially flexible and pointlessly athletic).

If is full of perverse and nonsensical injunctions. "If you can think - and not make your thoughts aim"; but why not? "Don't look too good"; can you look too good? "If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you" - well, if neither can, it's more likely that you're emotionally null than mature. These are the words of somebody suspicious of intellectual thought, of beauty, of ego, of passion, of tragedy – in other words, of all the highest grades of feeling available to the human spirit. It's no wonder that they struck my 14-year-old self as a pretty lousy blueprint for growing up.
One should not get all steamed

about a poem which is no more to be taken seriously by modern readers than, say, the chunterings of Polonius in Hamlet or the furrowed-brow faux-seriousnes of Jeffrey Archer or the lyrics of "My Way". But we have to face the fact ry Day phone-in. Agreed, only 7,500 people actually voted, a tiny sample given the level of flap and hype that attended it, and the farcical spectacle of the bookmakers trying to second-guess what the general public would choose from the entire canon of English verse and coming up with Auden's "Funeral Blues" because it was in Four Weddings and a Funeral. But "If" still polled more votes than its nearest rival, Tennyson's wonderful 'The Lady of Shallott". Professor John Carev. the Oxford don and critic, was asked on Radio 4 how he accounted for the succes of "If". He said he was surprised that voters should go for this old-fashioned kind of poetry-as-wisdom rather than for the poetry-as-comfort which the other poems in the Top Ten represented (Yeats's "Innisfree", Wordsworth's "Daffodils"). But the whole point of the Top Ten was that it is neither, it's poetryas-memory. The thousands of people who voted for "If", and for Walter de la Mare's "The Listeners" and Stevie Smith's "Not Waving But Drowning" are people who do not have a poetry book in the house. They are remembering the lines they learned at school ("The Listeners" was the source of a million comprehension tests) and voting for their childhoods.

The appreciation of poetry in this country is a curiously ageless process. If you had conducted yesterday's telephone poll 50 years ago, or 60, or even 70, the results would have been exactly the same, give or take Stevic Smith. No trace of modernity ripples the antique pond of British bardophilia, not even the supposedly popular Bet-jeman or Larkin or Wendy Cope. How curious, then, to think that while the National Poetry Day elections were taking place on Thursday evening in another part of London, the Day's organiser, William Sieghart was presiding over the Forward Poetry Prizes. the country's most expensive prizes for serious new poetry (£10,000 for the best collection, £5,000 for the best individual poem). These are important awards, judged and won by serious and talented poets (the top prize this year went to Sean O'Brien's Ghost Train) and the London poetry world turns out in strong, convival force for them. But as one congratulates the obstreperous figure of Mr O'Brien (an Irish-born Newcastle-dweller, suspicious of the effete South), one knows with an awful certainty that he will never impinge on the consciousness of British readers the way that, say, a Booker prizewinner might. Poetry's like that. One looks at "If" and at Ghost Train and then one looks at the average British reader - to whom they could be written in different languages.



Dared and Done: The Marriage of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning by Julia Markus, Bloomsbury, £20

here is no mystery as to why the courtship of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning has always attracted so much attention. It is, after all, one of the great love stories, full of drama and emotion and with that thrilling exit from Wimpole Street as the climax - what more could anyone want? But the marriage has been another matter. Those 15 years have, by comparison, been staid, marriage is dull, marriage even in the case of the romantic Brownings - is surely too boring to record. In fact, it is not. The marriage is every bit as fascinating, if not as obviously exciting, as the

Why, then, you are bound to ask, has it not become as well known? The answer lies in one word: sources. The courtship has the advantage of incomparable primary source material, those magnificent letters Robert and Elizabeth wrote to each other, which were later published by their son in 1899 and have ever since been plundered greedily by scholars and writers. The whole story is in those letters with every line open to several interpretations. Never has so much emotion and intelligence been compressed into so short a time span and the effect is exhilarating. But the marriage lacks that kind of charting.

The Brownings, being together, naturally did not write to each other. Robert bardly wrote letters at all, or at least not in comparison with Elizabeth, who spread herself over a large number of correspondents. Not all her letters are published and persistence is needed to collect even those which are available. This in itself has effectively controlled the

amount written about this period. been discouraged. She has spent 20 years in the Brownings' "field" and has herself published a fine modern edition of Casa Guidi Windows (Elizabeth's long poem about the Italian struggle for liberty). She has gathered together the scattered sources for the marriage years with enthusiasm and scrutinised them diligently. Her interest is not in the day-to-day life of the Brownings - it is curious, but no real impression of what this was like emerges - but in the broader question of how the marriage functioned at different times. In the early years, she chooses to focus on the contin-

uing influence of Mr Barrett. Eliza-beth might have seemed, by marrying Robert, to be showing that she loved him more than her father. Nevertheless, her feeling for this difficult parent was still strong, and could have wrecked her marriage, if she had let it, and if Robert had not been so sup-portive. Appreciating this, Julia Markus takes the basic problem about Mr Barrett: why did he not wish any of his children to marry?

As far as his daughters were concerned, it has always been possible to make a stab at justifying Mr Barrett's objections, since none of the suitors were exactly suitable, espe-cially Robert Browning. But what about his sons? Why did he not want them to marry and continue the family line? Julia Markus's theory, which she drops like a bomb into the middle of an otherwise straightforward account of the Brownings' early married years, is that he was afraid he would have a black grandchild. She cites Elizabeth as declaring she believed she had slave blood in her (though the quotation on which she bases this seems open to other interpretation) and invites incredulity, not to say ridicule, by saying that there was "nothing" in Elizabeth's appearance "to mitigate her own belief in her African blood". It is certainly an interesting tangent to go off at, and the discussion of the Barretts' West Indian background, which it entails, is full of well-researched detail, though to use an analysis of the poem, "The Runaway Slave" to boost this theory seems carrying

speculation too far. There are several other speculative areas in the book which, though lively in themselves, result in a strange lack of balance. There is a jumpy feeling to the shape and style which makes for an uneasy read. In order to float, and try to prove, her theories, Markus has to make space for them by compressing a great deal seems to collapse exhausted after long, discursive passages of the above kind, so much so that she is regularly reduced to one-word exclamations and three-word verbless sentences. It is a relief when she has passed the point of the middle years and comes at last to what she really has to offer. Thereafter, she manages

a smooth narrative. The prize she has to give us is ac-cess to 115 unpublished letters from Elizabeth to her sister Arabel, hitherto in family hands. Half of these are aiready in the Berg Collection, New York Public Library, but it has always been supposed that the other half contained far more revealing information. A knowledge of Araand devoted herself to charity work did suggest that there would be no startling intimacies in Elizabeth's letters to her (she would not wish to shock the spinster Arabel) but, even so, the two were close enough to ex-change real confidences. Such excitement, then, to have these letters

And they do genuinely add to what was already known of the one real difference of opinion between the Brownings, even if it is only a mat-ter of degree. Robert was always furious at his wife's belief in spiritualism and did everything possible to prove she was being hoodwinked. In the battle between them is made clear and so is the part played by Sophie Eckley, an American woman deeply involved in spiritualism under whose spell Elizabeth fell for a while. Julia Markus goes so far as to allege that "a woman came between the Brownings", which has suggestive connotations she afterwards, luckily, dispels. She sees the pair overcoming this unpleasantness, as indeed they did, and remaining true to each other until the very end. I was relieved at this

In fact, I was relieved by the whole book, written as it is with real passion and dedication. It may seem an odd thing to confess, especially at the end of a review, but I think it is not generally realised how those who have written on a particular subject approach the writings of others on the same topic with a mixture of dread and eagemess. Biographers, especially, remain forever possessive, hardly able to bear the possibility of anyone else knowing more than they do. Yet, at the same time, through knowing so much and being so familiar with the material, they everything by the most exacting

Coming to this book as someone who has written a biography of Elizabeth, I looked for accuracy (and found it) and empathy (which was lacking) but also for something new, something to justify another book (though I had no right whatsoever to ask for such justification). Julia Markus gave me that, if not enough of it - much more use will surely be made of these new letters - and, in addition, she has helped to bring the Brownings' marriage as well as their courtship to greater attention.

New life in an empty nest

Two new books represent the best and worst of women's studies. By Polly Toynbee

Secret Paths: Women in the New Midlife

Lifting the Taboo: Women, Death and Dying

by Sally Cline, Little, Brown, £18.99

by Terri Apter, Norton, £17.50

There are a great many books about women that present a puzzling publishing phenomenon. Who wants to read these worthy, weighty tomes telling us about ourselves? Who would ever reach out for a book called Secret Paths: Women in the New Midlife? Even we women in "midlife" feel we would rather not think too much about it. And yet now I have been obliged to read it, I am glad I did.

Terri Apter, an American academic living in Britain, has thrown off the old idea of forlorn empty-nesters, women who cannot find their feet once their nurturing days are done. Interviewing 80 women between 40 and 55 on both sides of the Atlantic, she finds them freer than ever, finding themselves as

never before. After all, since women now live so long and health-ily, with fewer children and many more qualifications, genuine new vistas do open up once their offspring have gone. If this is beginning to sound like one of those "Life begins at 60" advertisements, this book is more than an excercise in keeping up older women's spirits. Apter has put her finger on a new social phenomenon, rooted in de-

mography as well as culture. The current midlife generation are the post-war baby boomers, the most powerful generation the West has ever known. From the day they were born, first babies of the new welfare state, they changed the world as they

went and will probably go on doing so from their bathchairs in their sunset homes. In the Sixties, they caused the youth explosion, simply because they were so many, so dominant and so rich. Now bigger and richer than those before and after, this gener-

and unfair extent, hard on those who follow in its wake. So, if women of this generation refuse to grow old gracefully, then we have the muscle to roll back the perceptions of ageing. The despised over-the-hill femme de trente ans of the last century has become the femme de soixante ans now, and - who knows - we may even push her up another decade.

ation continues to set the

agenda to an unprecedented

Sociologically, this is a generation of women who have been used to changing all the rules as they go. They are the first to get divorced in great numbers, the first to juggle work and families. the first to be freed from drudgery by washing ma-chines, the first to believe in liberation, if not quite to achieve it. Now, in deciding how to live the rest of their lives, they are having to make it up as they go along.

Now they are no longer dogged by the clamorous needs of others, by conflicting duties and obligations, Apter finds many of them genuinely free for the first time. They feel powerful and influential. They have thrown off girlishness and ineffectuality, though sometimes only with a painful struggle when loss of looks and youth can feel like loss of power. She quotes one of Anita Brookner's bleaker passages about the shock of ng her mother's face reflected back at her in the glass. There is a real subject

Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett

here, sensitively explored, with surprising discoveries as these women talk of themselves, their lives and hopes. Women and men do grow old differently. Much of it is socially programmed, especially the way we see lines on a male face as distinguished, while expecting women to look like children forever. Some of it is genuinely physical - women's lives are governed by a limited period of fertility. Some of the difference springs from the way children are still central to women's lives, but only an adjunct to most men's. Subtle and complex pictures

emerge of the way this rehellious, innovative genera-tion is pushing back the barriers. All in all, this is a book to fortify the over forties.

There is, however, another deadlier category of women's book - the totally spurious - which brings down rightful derision on the whole idea of women's issues. Such is Sally Cline's preposterous Lifting the Taboo: Women, Death and Dying. If women and men are ever wholly equal, it must surely in be at the moments of birth and death. The very idea of a special women's death is bizarre, for all of us die equally alone. The book is "the first major study of the sexual politics of death in Great Britain, the USA and Canada". And probably the last too, since it is pretty comprehensive, even including "the experi-ences of female funeral directors".

One almost infallible sign of a women's book in deep trouble is the inclusion of lesbians. Time and again, the women's movement has been handicapped by a confusion between women, and women who are lesbians. The lesbian issue has destroyed countless nascent womens' organisations, alienating the great majority of women strug-gling with the dilemmas of living with men as lovers, husbands, brothers, fathers and sons. Nothing wrong with lesbians, it is just that they have no place in studies

about women per se. The is-

snes are utterly different.

Mother's little helper

Can women have it all? Christina Hardyment on Maureen Freely

started on this witty, icono-clastic, intensely personal book with high hopes. Mothers have long been in need of an articulate, presentable champion, and I remember Freely's first novel, Mother's Helper, as quite simply brilliant: a wickedly funny account of a Bloomsbury, £15.99 liberated feminist mother who was enlightened, empowered, in control - and a monster. It was written, she now tells us, from personal experience of

baby-sitting for such a woman while she was a student at Radcliffe in the early Seventies. Now the tables are turned. With four children of her own aged between one and 17, and two step-children, she has returned to the subject of motherhood in an attempt to define why, despite her supportive partner and a busy career as a writer, she is not happy. Cash is short. Editors are unpredictable. From day to day her life as mother is a chaotic, roller-coaster ride. She has no clear idea of what she is doing or why, just this uneasy feeling that she isn't

doing any of her jobs well. Who to blame? Other women in her position have blamed men, childrearing experts, governments too mean to provide free day-care for all and, very occasionally, selfish children. Freely turns instead to bite the ideological hand that fed her: the "altermaters" of feminist folklore whose siren songs made her believe she

could have it all. The bulk of the book is devoted to a hatchet job on the entire pantheon of feminist theorists, which is made the funnier by such incidents as

What About Us? An Open Letter to the **Mothers Feminism Forgot** by Maureen Freely

Freely's own experiences of being - er - matronised through Russian cigarette smoke by Marilyn French in the lounge of Clar-idges. Never in the history of feminist writing have so many been rubbished so fast. Friedan, Greer, Millett, Wolf, Dworkin, Paglia are all roundly lambasted for their appalling neglect of the egg-spattered, nappy-drenched realities of motherhood.

Freely is also spot on as she isolates - much embellished by her own distinctly eccentric experiences - the successive stages of the innocent young feminist's raised maternal consciousness; obsession with childbirth; frantic bonding sessions; the small tyrannies of the PTA. Her conclusion is that in face of the daily realities of the endless guerrilla war of domesticity, the second wave of feminism has pathetically little application. It has been mere-"a daughter's revolution", defining itself as a rejection of the mother's influence, and therefore doomed to be unhelpful to mothers.

But ... but ... but. Freely has certainly caught a tiger by the tail, but she doesn't manage to do more than drag it to first base. An aggressive editor ought to have pointed out to her that she spends nearly 200 pages

enumerating feminist sins of omission in increasingly fantastical metaphors, but offers only two pages of solutions: a list of directives that amount to no more than a synopsis for the book that I was hoping to find, that looked "at the larger picture, at what children need from their parents, and what parents need for themselves and for their children, at patterns of paid work and unpaid work, as they exist now and as

they could be". Moreover, the book may be called What About Us?; but it reads rather like What About Me? Autobiographical flashbacks are fine in a long work. but there are far too many here for a book of 215 pages. As one hilariously outrageous revelation follows the next, it becomes less and less likely that the average reader will identify with Freely. Would you hide your husband's wallet so he couldn't go out? Or biame everyone except yourself for the baby you had because you decided on impulse to fling your diaphragm across the bathroom floor? If this is making the personal political, it is, frankly, ridiculous.

Come on, Maureen. Let it go. Parenthood, like puppies, is for life, not just for Christmas. Leave those "childfree" feminists you feel betrayed you to ride their own hobby-horses into the sunset of a lonely old age, and get real: join the rest of the country's more or less philosophical mums galloping away on the Grand National of nurturing new lives. And next time, apply your unique talents to offering us something much more positive in the way of solutions.

This week: The Waste Land by TS Eliot (1922)

Plot: Ezra Pound helped Eliot construct this extended, allusive, modernist epic poem, using quotation, bits of foreign languages, shards of satire, dramatic monologue and vatic utterance to produce a detailed map of post-First World War disillusionment. There are five sections:

I) The Burial of the Dead. An émigrée reflects sadly on her past; a prophet promises to display "fear in a handful of dust"; a clairvoyant fails to see the future.

II) A Game of Chess. A posh lady bewails her sterile fate; a cockney woman exposes her

barren mentality.
III) The Fire Sermon. A sordid description

of the Thames is followed by a series of seedy sexual encounters: with Mr Eugenides, with a cocky clerk, with Wagner's Rhinemaidens (now Thamesmaidens).

IV) Death by Water. Phlebas the Phoeni-

cian is drowned in a soothing and, perhaps,

redemptive manner.

V) What the Thunder Said. A crowd in search of a saviour transforms into a pilgrim in search of a chapel. The poem ends with "the arid plain behind me" and the poet waiting for rain. There is a Buddhist prayer.

Theme: A meditation on the state of Western civilisation: beliefs have seeped away, individuals are left with sex or themselves. The voices in the poem reveal states of impotence, despair and loneliness: the mixing of "memory and desire". Towards the end, lumps of Western and Eastern culture are yoked together in an effort to find hope or religion. Eliot's conversion to Anglo-Catholicism shimmers distantly on the horizon.

Style: A hotchpotch of free blank and rhymed verse striving for unity, laced with the odd phrase of haunting brevity: "On Margate Sands/ I can connect/ Nothing with nothing"; "I knew nothing/ Looking into the heart of light/ the silence".

Chief strengths: After 70 years, still one of the most exciting poems in the language. Although much is obscure and some plain silly, line after line conveys an intensity of bleakness that seems both personal and an impartial judgement on modern life.

Chief weakness: The sections are of uneven quality. The cockney woman in Part II has stepped out of an Ealing Comedy.

What they thought of it then: The allusions were unpopular: "A poem that has to be explained is not unlike a picture with 'this is a dog' inscribed underneath" (FL Lucas). Some critics thought it was a leg-pull.

What we think of it now: Eliot is admired, and seen as more neurotic and romantic than he

Responsible for: A lot of adolescent poetry full of rodents walking over glass and condoms by the river bank.



Behind the study door

A new biography of WH Auden promises to reveal the inner man, not the gay cruiser. It fails. By James Fenton

n the Prologue to this biography, the author refers to a story by Henry James called "The Private Life", in which a great writer called Clare Vawdrey is found to have a double. There is the public, sociable Clare Vawdrey, who is a dull conversationalist. And then there is the genius, toiling away at his desk... "One goes out," says James, "the other stays at home. One is the genius, the other is the bourgeois and it is only the bourgeois and it is on geois whom we personally know. He talks, he circulates, he's awfully popular... For personal relations this admirable genius thought his second-best enough. The world was vulgar and stupid and the real man would have been a fool to

come out for it." The story of this genius-double left behind at the desk found its way into Auden's poetry, and although it is not quite true that the social and the creative Auden divided along these lines, it is inescapable that the biographer of Auden must devote his main after Faber in September 1930 efforts and attention to internal, concealed events, to what went on in the solitude of the study. It is far Island. What went on all day tains is the real story, however what happened later in the café, around the dinner table, or in the editor's office or indeed in bed.

Auden by Richard Davenport-Hines, Heinemann, £20

There is a great deal of story (public and private) to tell. Davenport-Hines feels that, since his predecessor Humphrey Carpenter set out much of this very efficiently, he himself is at liberty to take a certain knowledge of the previous biography for granted. But while the present book has genuine discoveries of its own, and though it benefits greatly from around it: the next Auden biography is going to have to be a serious, multi-volume affair. Davenport-Hines demonstrates that 350-odd

pages is just not enough.

He is forced to compress. Events which could hardly be considered minor, either to the public, social Auden or to his pripublished 1,000 copies of Poems, his first commercially published book (Spender had hand-printed more important for us to know a small edition of twenty Auden how Auden met Kierkegaard, or poems in 1928)." This sentence is Goethe, or Freud, than to be told followed by another summing up given to the idea, once almost uniwho was on the guest-list at Fire the contents of the 1930 volume.

But anyone who wanted to know Auden came to those first major Eliot or Isherwood or anyone else

disappointed here. One might also like to know how long that edition of 1,000 lasted, and whether it was a small, average or mightily ambitious first run, according to the standards of the time.

A further example comes from 1945, when Anden "was appointed editor of the 'Younger Poets' series from Yale University Press, and in and though it benefits greatly from the assiduous work of recent Auden scholars, there is no getting Adrienne Rich, whose early poems showed Auden's influence." Compressed here is a large amount of highly important work by Auden, and we would like, at the very least, a list of the poets he chose and promoted in those dozen years. No doubt there is enough material here for a short study. But we must pass quickly here over the tantalising relationship with Ashbery, just as we pass quickly, on the same page, over the collaboration with Brecht.

I don't want to sound ungrateful. Davenport-Hines is a corrective against much received wisdom. The American period is given serias a writer when he left England. behind the famously closed cur- how a poet gets going, and how This is not only to undervalue the poetry of the middle period. It is much we may also like to be told decisions of choosing and chuck- in America that Auden's secret ing out, and what, for instance, wealth of prose was amassed. A part of this was made public in The had to do with it, is going to be Dyer's Hand, for which purpose passages."

Auden apparently sent an assistant to the library to look up what he could remember having written and to copy it out (later they found out about photocopying). There is a great deal of uncollected journalism by Auden, to be found in such surprising places as Mademoiselle. The collected prose of Eliot, when it comes, will be fascinating enough. But the collected prose of Auden, the first volume of which is already under way, will astonish us all.

It is Davenport-Hines's foible to boast that he has never tried to vilify or diminish his subject, which would be "decadent and envious", and that he has not fallen for "the repetitive and rampantly cruisy young man whom other writers like to imagine". One page before this latter quote, he has been passing on stories about Auden dropping coins into the boots of a sentryman outside a royal palace, and fellating him in his sentrybox". And it is our sober biographer who refers to Auden's "failure" to consummate two schoolboy friendships by sexual activity, almost as if he believed that adolescent camaraderie should lead to a physical climax. It is comic, after so much given to the idea, once almost uni- deviant sex, to find the author state versal, that Auden simply went off in his acknowledgments: "My wife's financial support, her merriness and her Anglo-Catholicism have been equally indispensable. The sermons of Father George Bright, of St John the Baptist, Holland Road, Kensington, have influenced some key

Hating lago

Jeff Nuttall admires the astonishing energy of RS Thomas

Collected Poems 1945-1990 Phoenix Giants, £9.99 No Truce with the Furies Bloodaxe, £7.95 by RS Thomas

DCThomas cannot accurately be described as a hellfire Welsh minister from central casting: the precision and the heady audacity of his metaphors, the seamless, unostentations surety of his metre and his crafty rhymes obviate that. But his role as a priest is germinal. His creativity was first ignited by his work in a country parish in west Wales. He comes to this community of dour farmers stupefied by work and bleak weather, whom he represents through the persona of "Iago Prytherch", armed with his passionate Christianity and his love of poetry, and he proceeds to get his literary teeth into the conflicts and tensions of

the situation.

The poet loathes Prytherch for his brutish simplicity ("Men of the hills, wantoners, men of Wales/ With your sheep and your pigs and ponies, your sweaty females./ How I have hated you for your irreverence, your scorn even/ Of the refinements of art and the mysteries of the Church"). The Christian recognises
Prytherch's quality. The parson
apologises to his parishioner for using
him to win literary laurels. The priest admonishes the poet for the indulgences of art, the poet loathes the priest for his

These Shakespearean passions are generated while the coastal landscape feeds the poet with metaphors that can make the flesh prickle ("the moon/ That amber serpent swallowing an egg":
"stealthily hoarding the last light from the
sky/ In his soul's crannies"). These are the themes that produce his most brilliant poetry. He returns to them throughout the 45 years of writing

represented in Collected Poems: 1945-1990. Other themes and conflicts occur. He loathes the predatory English, but he bitterly admonishes the Welsh for their own cultural suicide ("an impotent people/ Sick with inbreeding/ Worrying the carcass of an old song"). He is defensive of the Welsh language but aware that a people who base their identity on a language which, like Bantu. Eskimo or Romany, nobody else speaks. are embracing a detrimental isolation.

Thomas has a near-Lawrentian loathing of industrialisation, seeing the machine as the enemy of God, but none of these themes strikes deeper music from his soul than when dealing with the disappearing world of the hill farmer. All this places him in the shadow of the Apocalyptics, but there are also echoes of MacNeice's religious poems. Falling short of the euphoric flights of Dylan Thomas and the resonant despair of George Barker, he vet avoids the tea-stained ennui of the Movement. His work lies in unresolvable conflicts. He distrusts his century, even the poetry, which he describes as a "faceless, formless amoeba/

with the secretions of its vers libre." All of which seems neatly summed up in the title of his latest book - No Truce With The Furies. Thomas is a prolific poet. In the 68 poems of this most recent volume there is much confrontation with the God whom he no longer preaches but with whom he obdurately wrestles as though - in the desert created by the triumph of Mammon, with Prytherch in the geriatric ward and the old agrarian conflicts struck sterile by electrotechnology and inept politics - it were his task to ease the loneliness of an abandoned deity by continuing to pester at his ambiguities.

In such grim circumstances the work is not so glamorous. Even some cliches creep in. Truth is dredged up from "bottomiess fathoms". A blind child stares into "the depth of love". The old power flickers fitfully when he returns to nature. A traveller knows "from the rustle/ of unseen water/ falls he has come home." A snake has "doll's eyes". Then, right at the end of the collection, there is a burst of ludic alliteration. What is the tone here? Is the grim vigil over? Has the lonely deity released him? Is it senility? Is it possibly the literary equivalent of Rembrandt's last cackling self-portraits? Why is the minister dancing in the ruins of his churchyard? The answer comes in the last stanza of the last poem:

But east of Zion there is Zen, that zone where zeal can become zest. On zany thermometers then, the readings of the zeitgeist are never at zero.

This is an astonishing flood of energy at the close of a career of sobering tenacity, illustrating the very nature of energy - something I think this tormented spirit will be happy to have achieved at last.

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OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK

flamingo;

nimon Armitage has always Alexandria (Cape, £7), has been good company. He is an actor, who can turn himself earned praise from writers such as John Fuller and Eavan Boland. Inevitably, Aids is the into a pickpocket or a car dormant seed from which the mechanic with equal ease. In any other poet, his dark social compoems sprout, but, as Boland says, they are full of light and edy would seem zany. With sensual detail. Doty's lines have Armitage, it has more to do with a desire to draw on his full a richness based on hypnotic repertoire of language. His poems are a mesh of assonances. powers of description, and an

slang and pace: totally contemporary and original.

In The Dead Sea Poems
(Faber, £6.99), there is a notable shift to a greater seriousness: pain under the jauntiness. No shortage of the famous wit, but it is subdued - deadpan, if you like. It is a book where dogs have their tails docked for wagging them, and thirsty men are thumped in the face for sucking up water too desperately. The message seems to be that spontaneous behaviour brings pun-ishment - and, in fact, the title poem is about poetry's sacrificial value. In it, Armitage seems to admit he placed too casual a worth on his early poems, and lost something on account of it.

on flashes of psychological insight or elliptical ideas that we still end up playing a sort of game. We ask: who is the real Armitage? His long poem, "Nine Eleven Ninety Nine", might offer a clue. It patiently follows the course of a Guy

hassle as a sting in the tail. Mark Doty, on the other hand, is fully serious. An American who is HIV-positive, his first British publication. My

exact ear for the right word.

He is a philosophical writer. In one fine poem, "No", children showing him a turtle prompt him to a comparison between the shielded world of the animal and the egocentricity of childhood. His ability to describe this and other scenes a transvestite show or an auction or a deathbed drama - and to take a step back to niggle at its for a symbol to bind a past and significance, is something we don't find in British poetry. Perhaps it is his American selfconfidence, or his illness, but Doty shows the reader how to perceive things in a new light as mortal and valuable phenomeva. The poems are long and loosely formal - "Becoming a Meadow" is in terza rima - but Yet his work draws so much not once does the clear progress of ideas falter. He is a true poet whose work is designed to make

us think as well as listen. In Sean O'Brien's Ghost Train (OUP, £6.99), winner of the 1995 Forward Prize, railways become an appropriate object for an angry writer who begins Fawkes night. But having a poem with the words, "When amassed details, there is a sen- I walk by your house, I spit." I walk by your house, I spit." sation of aimlessness and future There are trains steaming over viaducts, storming the shires, rocking their guards, breaking

the silence and sealing it again. O'Brien the trainspotter? Perhaps. But he is a born critic who dry", a tale set in an Irish erary pretensions and silly lives.



Simon Armitage: good company

thinks twice before setting verse to paper. The trains roll through the background of the poems with provincial towns, brutalised youths or glimpsed girls in the foreground. The idea might be present England the way Railtrack binds its geography: a diesel criticism of Thatcher's society-no-longer-exists credo, in line with the poet's politics. In spite of several petulant "hate" poems, Ghost Train has a more nostalgic hue than O'Brien's previous books, marking a softening of his work.

Better known as a publisher than as a poet, Neil Astley has just brought out his second book, Biting My Tongue (Blood-axe, £6.95). His poems are monologues dealing with large, topical issues - war, barbarity. social injustice. They tend to presuppose that the reader comes with a radical political viewpoint. Once or twice, this is tiring. But Astley has the ability to be convincing as well as passionate, and offers some finely realised dramatic situations. "The Magdalen Home Laun-

convent that imprisons "fallen" women, sums up a whole society, and is one of the four or five exceptionally good poems in the book.

Jackie Wills is a journalist who once earned a living playing bass with a funk band. Her first collection, Powder Tower (Arc, £5.95), has won a Poetry Book Society Recommendation. She is another poet of observation, scrupulously picking out details to form poignant social dramas. Her poems do not offer a large canvas: rather, they are quiet snapshots of ordinary lives in Britain. Wills feels her way into each poem "the way a dancer learns a routine". Jon Stallworthy is known as a

critic, as well as the biographer

of Wilfred Owen and Louis MacNeice. The Guest from the Future (Carcanet, £7.95) holds eight poems, whose theme might be summarised in the lines "women with whom I never slept/ but who were with me when I woke/ and whispered 'Courage'." These are poems evoking women survivors and also poems by other poets - Tennyson's Lady of Shalott underlying the form and plot of one long poem about a woman fleeing Communism in Poland. Stallworthy's craft is like embroidery, delicately weaving rhyme and rhythm, art and life, present and past literature, 19th and

20th century concerns. To finish, light poet of the month must be Ann Drysdale. Her The Turn of the Cucumber (Peterloo, £6.95) is a collection of reader-friendly verse in which she gently pokes fun at our lit-

Frenzy of a Grand Old Man Today's grandest Liberal assesses the life of the 19th-century's greatest Liberal: is it a mirror image? By Roy Hattersley

Gladstone by Roy Jenkins, Macmillan, £20

he combination of author and subject makes Roy Jenkins's Gladstone (Macmillan, £20) irresistible. The one Liberal grandee to have survived into the modern world has written a biography of the man who dominated Liberal politics for almost half the 19th century. It would be wrong to pretend that the two men have very much in common. Jenkins could never have been convincingly described as "a half mad firebrand". But his account of Gladstone's progress from "hope of the stern unbending Tories" to The People's William inevitably includes insights into the writer's own character.

Jenkins's distaste for Gladstone's acceptance of his party's Newcastle Programme ("a capacious rag-bag but weak on theme") is reminiscent of his own reluctant acquiescence to more than one Labour manifesto. And Gladstone's offer to support a Liberal administration which he did not lead might well have inspired Jenkins's assurance that - having voted against his party whip in favour of joining the Common Market - he had no plans to rebel again. The wording of the two statements is very different. But the intention was virtually identical. Both men believed that honour required them to make clear at least to their more perceptive observers - that the promises of good behaviour were carefully qualified.

A biography of Gladstone is - as

Jenkins graciously concedes - a formidable task. Gladstone lived so long and did so much that even 700 pages can barely accommodate the full achievements of a man who, despite taking his health far too seriously, threw himself into everything that he did with an almost manic frenzy. Jenkins hits his moving target with consistent accuracy. He pays meticuious attention to appropriate detail, judges each incident with the eye of an experienced politician and writes in a wonderfully clear, if occasionally florid, style. His biography is all you need to know about Gladstone includ-

ing the things you never dared to ask. The chapter which is devoted to the Grand Old Man's sexual expeditions into London's backstreets is the weakest section of the whole book - coming, as it does, to a highly dubious conclusion about the exact nature of his relationship with the West End prostitutes. It was Gladstone's view that "things are done best by those who agree with them". It is hard to believe that Jenkins enjoyed assessing the significance of the sexual symbols which Gladstone drew in his diary. A man who was really interested in such things could not have written so

generally excellent a book. It is the treatment of the famous moments in Gladstone's life which best reveals Jenkins's remarkable talent for biography. The stories of the great man's inability to understand the public's sympathy with General Gordon, his long-winded and argumentative

domination of the House of Commons and his pathological incompatibility with Queen Victoria are all so familiar that it is difficult to repeat them without sounding hackneyed. Jenkins avoids the tedium by adding his own succinct - and sometimes original - judgement to the description of each episode.

Gladstone is usually given the benefit of the political doubt. Undoubtedly, when the odious Captain William O'Shea first threatened to name Parnell in his divorce proceedings, Gladstone was "more disposed to tolerance than either of his lieutenants". But it was the withdrawal of his support which destroyed the Irish leader in the end. Without Government backing for the Home Rule party, Home Rule had no future. So, as soon as it became clear that Parnell had lost the Liberals' confidence, he had to go. Jenkins claims that the harshest passages in the ultimatum were not Gladstone's own work, and diplomatically does not even speculate about how the existence of the threatening message reached the newspapers. But he has no doubts as to why the Liberal Leader-ship cracked under pressure from the Methodists during their Sheffield party conference. Not having "any inside knowledge of Non-conformity ... they took its fulminations too seriously". He has clearly not forgotten his boyhood in the Welsh valleys.

Jenkins is as impressed by Gladstone's indomitable character as he is by his political achievement. He seems Campaign, an enterprise which is still unrivalled in the annals of electionmany of them in the open air, in 15 days
addressing (by his own careful calculation) 86,930 people. Often he spoke
for several hours. But Jenkins deals in ence. His flattery lay in assuming their seriousness and judgemental capacity." Gladstone knew that he would win

the Midlothian election. So "while it which it was necessary was the reimposition of Gladstone's authority on the political scene and the sending out of beams of Liberal enthusiasm." It is as they grow older. Some do not.

comment which gives life to detail. Very occasionally, the achievemen is under-rated. The First Irish Land Bill (1870) is dismissed as a "dead letter" because its reference to "exorbitant rents" (rather than "excessive" as Gladstone first intended) "enabled the courts to interpret the protection narrowly." Certainly, the Land Bill of 1881 brought more relief to peasant farmers than the earlier measure. But the 1870 legislation, as well as helping the worst treated tenants, changed history. It was the first acknowledgment that the demand for Home Rule was based as much on the need for bread as on the hope of independence. And it established the notion that the state has a duty to regulate "free" contracts when the power of the rival parties is so disproportionate that the will of one is imposed on the other. The philosopher, TH Green, thought it an early example of

parliamentary socialism. Gladstone was (at least until the last years of his life) not even a radical. The reforms of his First Administration - including the Great Education Act of 1870 - were the achievements of his Ministers, not their leader. He told John Ruskin in 1878 that he was a "firm believer in the aristocratic. principle - the rule of the best, I am an out-and-out inegalitarian." Jenkins concludes that "what he liked best was an austere duke of large fortune." But he also liked scholars, poets, theologians and philosophers. He was by far the most conscientiously intellectual Prime Minister in British history and certainly the most genuinely pious.

Jenkins illuminates Gladstone's complex character in a series of vignettes which add colour to the careful narrative. And the full supporting cast, no less than the star, is painted in almost in awe of the Grand Old Man's vivid colours. General Gordon "was continuing vigour. At the age of 69, Gladstone set out on a Midlothian agent of a cautious policy. He was the prototype of a Boy's Own Paper hero, with an additional capacity to seize the attention and attract i many who had passed the age of boy hood." Parnell, until destroyed by the divorce, seemed set upon a classic path, "an organiser of intransigence who, quality as well as quantity. "He never after a qualifying period in gaol, pandered or talked down to his audibecame a moderate, even a conservative founder of a new party."

The moderate, even conservative party that Jenkins helped to found in 1981 was, as we now know, a staging was magnificent [it] was not therefore post on his journey to his natural home electorally bold. The purpose for amongst the Liberals. And, in consequence, we can make one real com-



Surely it can't Happen again... FROM THE RESTSELLING AUTHOR OF COMES A MERVE-SERENDING THRILLER OF KIDNAP, CONSPIRACY AND ASSASSINATION

From the whore's mouth

Philip Roth's new novel writhes with desire. By Robert Winder

To say the least, Philip Roth's new book begins as it means to go on. "Either forswear fucking others," the hero, Mickey Sabbath, is warned, "or the affair is over". It is a bold ultimatum, coming as it does from a woman who glories in sleeping with four different men in a day (while Sabbath listens on the phone). And it sets Sabbath listens on the phone). And it sets the right tone for what follows, which is the last frantic spasm of an ageing puppeteer. Sabbath is a would-be De Sade, a career fornicator with a good line in cynical mockery. His finger puppet show is prosecuted because he manipu-lates (literally) the audience. And he is messianic about the hypocrisy of tidy lives.

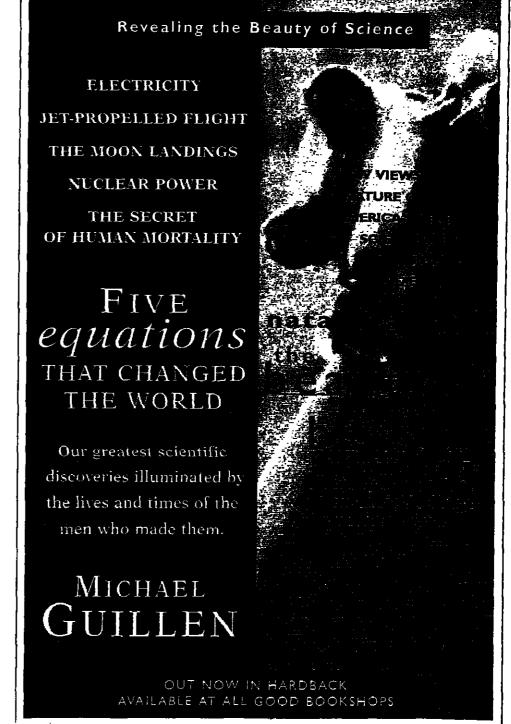
"For a pure sense of being tumultuously alive," he insists, "you can't beat the nasty side of existence." But he doesn't quite have the courage of these convictions. He yearns to be a callous seducer, but in fact is rapturously devoted to his lover, a sexual colossus called Drenka. Her death leaves him bereft and howling, plagued by memories of his own licentious life.

We get the full story, straight, as it were, from the whore's mouth. Sabbath is Portnoy with real women to talk to, which makes this a bigger book (if not quite so taboo-breaking sensational). Roth recreates half an hour of phone sex, right down to the "Oh! Oh! Oh! Mickey! Oh, my God! Ahh! Ahh! Ahh! Jesus Christ! Ob, my God! Uhhh! Uhhh!" Sabbath is lectured by his best friend: "Isn't it tiresome, in 1994, this role of rebel-hero? What an odd time to be thinking of sex as rebellion." But he's missing the point. Sabbath is not rebelling against anything; neither promoting the pleasures of the flesh, nor crowing over their destructive side effects. Sex, here, is a form of panic, a desperate attempt to drown out the noise of death and loss. So beneath its raucous bitterness the novel does have a tender centre. For Sabbath, life without Drenka is unendurable. And other losses come to light: the death of his brother in the war, the disappearance of his first wife.

Sabbath's Theatre by Philip Roth Cape, £15.99

Roth is on top form rhetorically: the book shakes with savage eloquence. He does, however, seem to be reacting also to a parochial concern. Sabbath's monologues often sound like a cry on behalf of the male sex urge. At one point, he explodes in mock-outrage when a girl (the one at the other end of the phone line) says she loves him for his mind. "Help! I've been mentally harassed! Help! I am the victim of mental harassment! You have extracted mental favours from me without my even knowing and against my will! I have been belittled by you! Call the dean!" It's quite funny, but only as a joke against the campus-politics idea that sex is a crime visited on women by men. As the basis for Sabbath's philsophical pose it lacks grandeur, and leads to a very silly ending indeed: Sabbath watches his wife making love with another woman, and thumps his chest and barks in an expresion of primal male rage: Ich bin ein gorilla. It's deliberately farcical. But it's still farcical.

Still, the novel writhes with the desire to engage universal concerns - sex urges and death terrors - rather than merely topical controversies. The surprise is that Roth, so unbashful in physical matters, is timid when it comes to striking the tragic note, which seems to be what he is after. Sabbath is compared to King Lear, Othello, Macbeth, and Hamlet. This last makes sense - all Sabbath really wants to do is leap into Drenka's grave (he urinates on it instead, in a pungent theatrical ges-ture). But he hardly qualifies as a tragic hero; he is hardly more sinned against than sinning. And tragedy might have been too grand for him. On the other hand, maybe it's just that Roth wanted him alive, for Sabbath Theatre II.



books

Paperbacks

Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst





The China Voyage by Tim Severin (Abacus, £8.99)

More high adventure from the re-creator of increasingly unlikely feats of oceanic transmigration. Here, he tests the feasibility of sailing from China to America on a bamboo raft. The crew of seven encountered pirates, a typhoon and a killer whale, while suffering ills ranging from broken ribs to near-madness. The craft fell apart a thousand miles from the US, but left a stirring tale in its wake. What next for Tim? Round the Horn by inner tube?



Dependence Day by Robert Newman (Arrow, £4.99)

It's only when it's too late that Kevin realises his love for Svetlana, a Romanian highjumper, was a many-splendoured thing. In letters to Kenny Rogers he tells the singer of the woman he can't have back "for all the milk in Lord Rayleigh's farm". Newman (of The Mary Whitehouse Experience fame) has an eye for the detritus of a failed relationship: an abandoned Bounty bar wrapper on the car floor, and the song on the radio that suddenly says so much.



The Cure by Carlo Gebler (Abacus, £6.99)

Based on a real-life case, this brooding fiction about a woman's persecution by her superstitious husband is set in rural Ireland a century ago. Her torment is terminated with his chilling remark: "I think we've burnt the fairy out". Sober and sympathetic, it is a corrective to current fashions for Celtic nostalgia and the supernatural. Such events are not confined to the past or the countryside: a similar case occurred in suburban Turin last year.



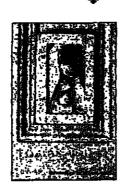
The Complete Stories by Alice Walker (The Women's Press, £7.99)

Alice Walker first realised how much she liked writing short stories when she saw how easily they could be fitted around other things; picking up a child from nursery, falling in love, tending a husband. Tackling marriage, abortion and pornography with a steady and humorous eye, some of Walker's stories can also be movingly offbeat - especially "Strong Horse Tea" in which an old woman braves the elements for a shoe-full of horse's piss.



The Life and Death of Petra Kelly by Sara Parkin (Pandora, £9.99)

The world of green politics gives way to the darker milieu of Le Carré in this well-researched account of the leading green activist. Kelly emerges as energetic and intelligent but marred by deep insecurity. She was killed aged 44 by her lover Gert Bastian, a retired German general who also shot himself. Parkin discounts a suicide pact, pointing instead to Bastian's possible secret police links.



In Pharoah's Army: Memories of a Lost War by Tobias Wolff (Picador, £5.99)

Sometimes Tobias Wolff writes so clearly, it's easy to underestimate him. In the sequel to his wonderful childhood memoir, This Boy's Life, Wolff is now a young man, marooned in the Mekong Delta and running a black market trade in televisions and guns. As suspicious as ever of his own motives (even the good ones), the author successfully punctures any romantic notions

The monster, the bore and the wardrobe

Vanishing children, sex abuse, murderous squalor and ghostly encounters feature in a new crop of first novels. By Susie Boyt

ane Adams's novel, The Greenway (Macmillan, £14.99) is founded on a disappear ance. One summer day in 1975, while Cassie Maltham and her 12year-old cousin Suzie are taking a short cut through an ancient enclosed pathway in Norfolk, the child vanishes, never to be seen again. Nobody is found. In time, the police investigation is called off. As a result, the family is left grieving and uncertain, Cassie is left riddled with guilt and the beginnings of a psychiatric illness, and the morale of the detective investigating the case - and subsequently his promising career - ends up in ruins. Twenty years later, still tormented by the event in nightmares, Cassie returns to the scene of the mystery. Then, suddenly, another child disappears in the same way in exactly the same spot. Cassie is the only connection between the two events, and yet she seems to be as much a victim as either of the lost girls.

Adams's narrative has a simplicity that is misleading. The story is compellingly told and rich with psychological insight. The way that the case stirs up personal sadnesses and disappointments in the lives of the policemen who investigate it is par-ticularly poignant and subtle, and provides an interesting depth to the

criminal investigations.

Clever Girl by Tania Glyde (Picador, £9.99) follows the fate of Sarah Clevetoe, a witty teenager with sophisticated pastimes such as sculpture and astronomy and playing in an all-girl thrash metal group called the Dildos. Yet Sarah suffers from far more than the usual pitfalls of adolescence. A survivor of child sex-ual abuse (this is mentioned just a couple of times and only in passing), her body is constantly under attack

from almost every man she meets.

Glyde's novel has an impressive range of tone, funny and tragic, heavy as lead one minute and light as feathers the next. In fact, Glyde vegans can date to complain about writes about things of the utmost the killing of people, to his detailed disgusts them, as if presenting an adolescent scrape, just boyish high spirits and horseplay. food, living in abject squalor and for arms, in a gesture of long yet this kind of inappropriateness ever giving birth while their violent, to the gates of heaven.



Tania Głyde:

of tone just goes to show how crushed her heroine's hopes and values have become. Finally, something in Sarah hardens against this kind of treatment and she fights back in an oddly surreal denouement, and although it is slightly disappointing that her triumph can exist only in the realm of fantasy, we cheer her on, nonetheless.

Graham Underwood, narrator and self-styled hero of Theodore Dalrymple's So Little Done: The Testament of a Serial Killer (André Deutsch, £9.99) is a deeply unattractive character. He reminds you of a crashing pub bird et an additional pub bird insists on telling you his life story, dressing up banalities about the world and his wife as if they were dazzling insights of the highest calibre, bending your ear all night and even following you out of the pub down the street. Then, just as you think you are safely out of his clutches, there he is sitting next to

you on the night bus. Dairymple gives us a thorough outrage that people who aren't even seriousness with such a shrugging of chronicling of the seedier side of Eng-

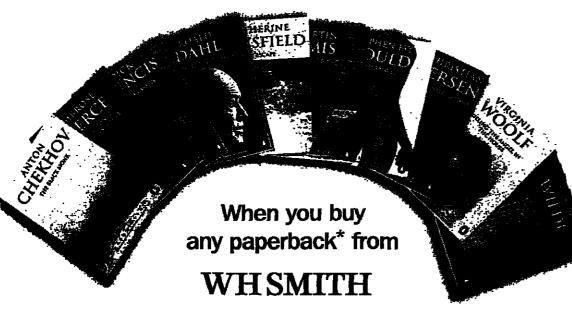
thieving partners are nowhere to be seen. Nothing cheers him. A brief thrill at seeing himself described in an Italian newspaper as "Il Mostro di Eastham" and the success of Tshirts bearing the legend, "I Visited Graham Underwood's House And Survived" is all he allows himself in the way of amusement.

Robert Girardi's Madeleine's Ghost: A Novel of New York, New Orleans and the New World (Sceptre, £5.99) is an ambitious, generous book by an extremely talented new writer. The novel begins in one of the worst parts of Brooklyn. Girardi's hero, Ned Conti, is alternately in despair over his PhD: distraught that he lacks the money to move to a better neighbourhood where he won't get mugged; sad that the girls he knows are drug addicts and anorex-ics: miserable that his only work prospect is cataloguing century-old papers for a local priest; and, above II, pining for his ex, Antoinette. The last straw is that his apartment, (which used to be a walk-in wardrobe) is haunted.

From here, the novel unfolds into wild exploration of how to be happy in a world which seems so rife the shoulders that at times her style lish life that appals him, making him with danger and corruption, and in seems almost irresponsible. She can see his many murders a duty. Under- which everyone is trying so hard not describe her heroine being raped by wood is rather like a malcontent from to have any feelings. Ned does not a group of drunken schoolboys who a Revenge Tragedy. The world is a leave a stone unturned in his quest for pee on her clothes and tell her she sick place to him, crammed with goodness, reaching hundreds of years hideous, loose, masochistic women, back into the past, travelling thouthin from smoking or fat from junk sands of miles and stretching his food, living in abject squalor and for arms, in a gesture of longing, right up

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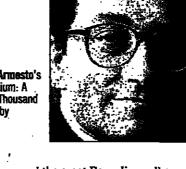
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D)

Who's reading whom?

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto's latest book, 'Millennium: A History Of Our Last Thousand Years', is published by



've recently discovered the great Bengali novelist and satirist Bankim Chandra Chattopadhaya who died just over 100 years ago. His novels are like modern Hindi films, frantially busy with characters and plot and awash with Hindu propaganda. But he has a rare gift for evoking a whole world in a few words and is master of the reader's emotions, which has taken me by surprise because I don't often react emotionally to what I read. There are great paradoxes in his novels: he is savagely funny in his stories of colonial life which lampoon the sychophantic babus who assume western dress and habits, yet he himself accepted rewards from the British. You never know what he really feels about the British and there is a tension between the rabblerousing calls to bloodshed in the name of nationalism and the cautionary voices in his novels.

we recommend..

Byzantium: The Decline and Fall by John Julius Norwich (Viking, £25). A tumultuous, humane and eminently readable history of a glittering

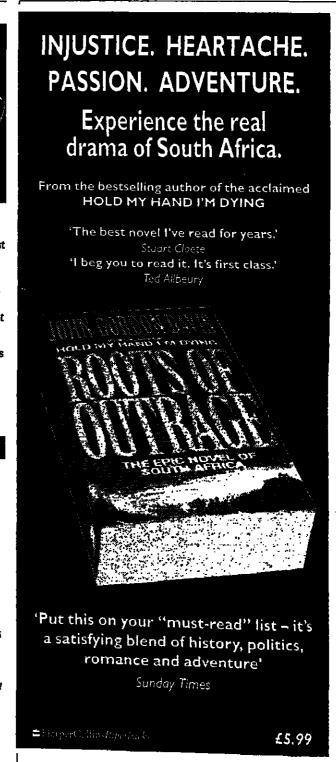
Darwin's Dangerous Idea: Evolution and the Meanings of Life by Daniel C Dennett (Allen Lane, £25). Brilliant philosophical defence of Darwinian theory.

The Redress of Poetry: Oxford Lectures by Seamus Heaney (Faber, £15.99). The new Nobel Laureate offers the best lectures by an Oxford Professor of Poetry since WH Auden's 40 years ago.

HG: The History of Mr Wells by Michael Foot (Doubleday, £20). Empathetic biography of 'probably the most' influential writer of the modern era'.

John Betjeman: Letters Volume 2, 1951-84 edited by Candida Lycett Green (Methuen, £20). Engrossing correspondence which ranges from the endearingly silly to the unbearably moving.

Notes from a Small Island by Bill Bryson (Doubleday, £15.99). The best-selling travel writer turns his witty, searching eye on





Wild things The man who

picks them, the restaurants that serve them page 12

Laird of the Manor The businessmen who buy up Scotland page 13



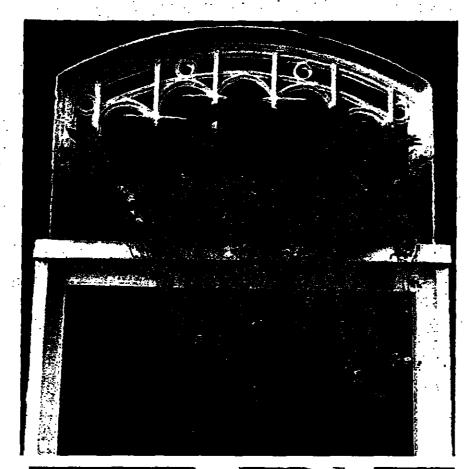
Dead cool The shop where you can buy a dog that doesn't bite, bark (or breathe) page 14

Island lite On the trail of Robinson Crusoe ... in Chile page 22

Going out Places to go and shows to see this weekend pages 16, 17

Every town house should have one

Escapes





Where central heating escapes from inside, you can use indoor plants like winter cherry (top) or cyclamen (below) in a window box Photographs: Garden Picture Librar Photographs: Garden Picture Library

In cities, window boxes are vital reminders of nature. So don't let them wither in winter: there are plenty of things to plant. By Anna Pavord

not. In a terrace of town houses, fronting straight on to a pavement over a sub-basement, a window box may provide the only possible way of greening up the view. This was clearly understood at the time that many city streets were first being filled with new houses. "What are the casements lined with creeping berbs/ The prouder sashes fronted with a range of orange, myrtle?" asked the poet William Cowper. He answered himself a few lines later. "Are they not all proofs, that man immured in cities. still retains/ His inborn, inextinguishable thirst/ Of rural scenes, compensates his loss/ By supplemental shifts, the best he may?

At the height of the window box boom in the 1870s, Shirley Hibberd, gardening guru of the day, was recommending at least four changes of plants in a year. We, in an era which has seen an unprecedented boom in garden spending, should at least be able to manage two. The petunias are rotting. the geraniums are wondering where the sun has gone, the nasturtiums have thrown in the trowel. It is time for one of Cowper's "supplemental shifts". But what to?

That depends where you live. In London, where central heating escaping from inside keeps window boxes in an almost Mediterranean micro-climate, you can use plants generally grown indoors to great effect in a window box. Big florists' cyclamen, for instance, enjoy the outside cool of a window box rather more than they do the over-heated dry atmosphere of a window sill inside. But they will melt at the first touch of frost.

Displays made from plants that are all the same colour have more deep pink moustaches standing very impact than three or four plants all of clearly out on a cream ground. Or you different shades. Use a pale winter flowering heather to fill in the gaps. The cyclamens' own juicy, marbled leaves contrast well with the wispy foliage of heather. If you want white cyclamen, choose a dark-flowered heather. Prices of cyclamen fluctuate wildly, the best bargains of course being in street markets such as the Sunday scrum at Columbia Road in London's east end.

The bushy little winter cherry, Solanum capsicastrum, a half-hardy sub-shrub with brilliant little round fruits of orange, red and green, is also happy to be left out - but only in places where it is not likely to get

own houses need window boxes struck down immediately by frost. It in a way that country houses do only grows about a foot high, so is ideal in a window box. One such plant had self-seeded itself into the paving of Janis Leggott's garden, featured in this column last week, and she said it had grown outside very happily for the last few years. You could combine it with pale variegated ivy, which tips over the edge of window boxes to make soft curtains of greenery.

For a box outside a kitchen window, you might think during the winter of having some evergreen herbs that you can reach out and pick when needed. Thyme, rosemary, sage and marjoram will all grow successfully in window boxes. You could use mounds of purple or variegated sage interplanted with the decorative kales that have become so popular. Or plant the narrow-leaved grey sage 'Hidcote', with bright green moss, curled parsley and a scattering of pansies for colour.

For bravery in the face of the enemy, scarcely anything can beat a pansy. I was watching some in a window box in Elgin in the north of Scotland recently. when terrible westerly gales were ripping through the streets. Though blown horizontal by the wind, the pansies stuck grimly to their posts and contin-ued to fly their standards. You would not think that such a large flower could stand that kind of battering, but it does.

Winter flowering pansies available in garden centres now, are grown from seed sown in May or June, and there are certain seed strains - such as Universal Plus, Floral Dance and Ice Queen - which produce pansies in a wide range of colours. If you were planting pansies with coloured kales, you might choose Universal Plus Ivory Rose Blotch', which has flowers with might want to make a more sumptuous statement by planting deep purple pansies amongst arching clumps of the black grass Ophiopogon planiscapis, 'Nigrescens'. It is evergreen and not more than nine inches high.

Height is an important consideration when planting out flower boxes. Flowers naturally turn towards the light, so from inside you are backstage, as it were, looking at the supports rather than the painted backdrop of the window box productiom. You can sometimes get over this difficulty by dropping the level of the window box, but this will depend on the type of window and sill that you have.

Flowers are generally happier in window boxes that are in a sunny position, though cyclamen will thrive in shade. If you have a very dark area, perhaps a sub-basement where you would like to try a window box, think of ferns. You could grow the shiny strap-leaved harts tongue fern together with the frilly, lacy fronds of a Polypodium such as 'Cornubiense', which is evergreen. Ivy is a natural companion for ferns. Try the pale greyishleaved 'Adam' for a cool effect, or the golden variety 'Buttercup' for a warmer display. Scatter snowdrop

bulbs in the gaps for early spring.
Although plants such as florists'
cyclamen and winter cherry will give instant colour to see you through the next couple of months, before you plant them you need to think about what happens after winter. Set a quiet time bomb ticking under the winter cherries by planting a thick layer of bulbs at the base of the container. You need to plant much more thickly in a window box than you would in a border. When the display is over, lift the bulbs (which will be exhausted by the cramped conditions) and plant them out in the garden. If you don't have one, give them away to somebody who has! They will eventually fatten up and get back into flowering fettle.

Concentrate on bulbs that perform early – by May you will be getting itchy fingers and eyeing up the summer bed-ding. Think also about the relative heights of the plants. Flowers that are too tall will look ridiculous outside as well as in and will be far more likely to snap off in the wind. Hyacinths are gorgeous in a window box because they are themselves so waxily unreal, and you can cheat the seasons by buying bulbs which are already in bud. On warm still days, you will be able to open your windows to let the rich, swoony smell of the flowers drift indoors.

Tulips of the Kaufmanniana family are ideal as they have such interesting leaves, striped and mottled like snakeskin. They are rarely more than eight inches high and mostly flower in March. Greigii tulips such as the famous scarlet 'Red Riding Hood' are equally suitable, as well as some of the showier species, such as T praestans, 'Fusilier'. Most other tulips will be too tall for window boxes. Crocus work well, as do dwarf iris such as Iris reticulata. Start winter plants off in fresh compost. Old compost is as dispiriting as someone else's sheets.



am not the only person to have got the wrong side of the custodians of Italian gardens (Independent 16 September). Nancy Pattenden of London N5 went on a group trip to visit gardens in Tuscany. "Many of the gardens seemed in no way prepared for our group's visit, though they had all been forewarned. The gardeners arrived late the morning we were there and started their mowing and clipping. The exceptions were I Tatti, very well maintained, Villa La Pietra when Harold Acton was still alive, and Villa Gamberaia which had

been carefully restored after the war and was beautiful."

Trevor Goodchild of London E11 was at Villa Lante in July. "Our visit was marred by a long argument between the guide and an Italian. He wanted to know why the Italian government neglected one of the country's great treasures. We had an even more truculent guide at the Palazzo Farnese at Caprarola in Lazio. We were rushed through palace and garden in 20 minutes flat." Garden visitors evidently need to ingratiate themselves with some gambits from an Italian

phrase book. A bottle of champagne for the phrase most likely to succeed with the guardian of the garden at Villa Lante.

ichael Loftus of Wootten's Nursery, Wenhaston, Halesworth, Suffolk, is holding a grand end-of-season plant sale. "No bought-in rubbish. No pot-bound fossils," says the notice of sale. Prices have been cut by almost a third: a biggish shrub in a two-litre pot now costs £3.15. Open daily (9.30am-5pm) until the end of October. No mail order.

BARROWS DIRECT

WEEKEND WORK

Now, while the earth is still warm but moist after the recent rain, is the ideal time to be shifting plants. It is easier to move herbaceous plants if you reduce some of their top hamper first. Dig them a comfortable hole and fork up the bottom of it so that the roots do not have a battle to get started. I always put bone meal in the hole as a bribe. I have been shifting self-seeded plants of foxglove, verbascum and Verbena bonariensis to suitable homes and none show signs yet of flagging.

I have also been experimenting again with establishing small new wallflower plants in the courtyard wall. The few that I had got going in the vertical surface died in the drought this summer. Since the wall still seems very dry, I have wrapped the roots with damp compost in wet tissues and pushed these bundles into holes in the wall. I am hoping the reservoir of compost and damp will tide them over.

It is also time to pick late-keeping apples for eating over Christmas. Store them separately from early and mid-season apples. The ethylene gas given off by ripe earlier fruit will hurry the late ones on too much and they will deteriorate.

Stop watering tuberous begonias and gloxinias in pots so they die down naturally. Store the tubers for the winter in a cool, dry place. Flowers of sulphur dusted over them will help prevent mould.



Has skiing gone downhill in the past 50 years? Our unique guide reveals how you can recapture the purity, magic and adventure of the innocent days before crowded resorts and package ski holidays

Plus: Paul Barker on a year of National Lottery madness

And Justine Picardie talks to Anne Diamond

gardening



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Planting?

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

country

'I found I was on to a winner. Once a restaurant starts to offer wild fungi, it usually has to carry on'

Daniel Butler talks to Clive Houlder. professional mushroom picker



a! See that?" Clive Houlder stoops quickly, his hand disappearing into the leaf litter next to the hedge. He straight-ens almost immediately, holding out a moist brown dome. "That is a cep - Boletus edulis - one of the best eating mushrooms. Come on, there will be plenty more around - this is a record-

breaking year."

While Houlder, one of Britain's rarest professionals, the wild mushroom picker, fills his basket, he admits to mixed emotions about the glut: "To be honest I prefer it Houlder still makes weekly trips to sell and the statement of the statement when there aren't too many around - what I love is the long walks looking for them." he says. "At the moment there are so many I find myself in just one place, filling bas-ket after basket before walking back to the car because they're too heavy to carry - in fact I've got 40kg waiting for dispatch and the price is about to plummet.'

Houlder stumbled upon his unusual trade by chance. During the Eighties he was a restaurateur in Essex, but decided to move outlets just as property prices peaked. The result was two mortgages and bankruptcy, and he began suffering from serious stress, for which the doctor prescribed long solitary walks.

It was during this low ehh that he saw a

morels for sale in Europe. These distinctive honeycombed fungi were growing on his bonfire so, acting on an impulse, he phoned around his former contacts. Le Gavroche invited him to bring in a sample: on seeing the basket, Michel Roux immediately offered him £100 and asked if he could supply any others. He was shown a selection of the most edible and recognized. selection of the most edible and recognised

mushrooms to top London restaurants, but the bulk of his business is now local, supplying a growing band of the more adventurous regional eateries. Rococo's in King's Lynn is a case in point. A Michelin "Red M" restaurant, it serves sauteed wild fungi on a fresh brioche as a starter "That's the great thing about mushrooms," enthuses Houlder. "It's almost a case of the simpler the recipe.

Although most gastronomes rate the cep as the peak of fungal perfection, Houlder says chefs prefer a mixture - and a variety of colours and textures, too. These, he says, with a smile, may not always be the best eaters, but they look fantastic on the plate. may de more expensive programme about Indian women picking than fillet steak," he says. "But they need

only be used judiciously and have a won-derful flavour. Use them for anything from a starter to the garnish for ice-cream."

He is often unable to satisfy demand and as a result, prices are high. Although he sells most of the fruits of his labours to local restaurants at £15 a kilo, any surplus is snapped up by Covent Garden wholesalers: "By the time they've reached a greengrocer or market stall the price will be £25, while God knows what a restaurant

Obviously Houlder's earnings yo-yo according to the season and weather. March is always the worst month - it's the only one when there are no edible species available - but this year the dry summer hit fungi particularly badly: "At times like that I have to supplement my own collecting with mushrooms brought in from the Con-tinent." he admits. "During really bad periods I have to add a percentage of cultivated oyster and shitake mushrooms -

At the moment, this is the last thing on his mind: "Many species are out in huge numbers – in fact the combination of the An excellent guide to pic dry summer and recent rain makes it one of the best autumns ever," he says. A day's collecting in his patch of north Norfolk regly results in over 15kg of wild his What these will be varies throughout the

simply to keep the price realistic."

year, which begins in April with the St George's mushroom. This then blends into morels and fairy-ring champignons, followed by the autumn's profusion of ceps and other boleti. Although Houlder says fungi can be found anywhere at any time, as a crude rule of thumb, short grass is best during the summer months, and woods come into their own in the autumn.

So what of the famous reluctance of the British to eat wild fungi? Unlike our Coninental neighbours who consume them by the ton, we are used to branding anything. not safely labelled and stacked on a super-market shelf as a "toadstool". According to Houlder all this changed with the culinary new wave which swept into the country dur-ing the Eighties. "I found I was on to a winner," he says. "Once a restaurant starts to offer wild mushrooms, it usually has to carry on because of the demand."

But even experts have their failings. The holy grail of mushroom pickers is the British truffle and Clive Houlder has never

An excellent guide to picking and eating wild fungi is The Ultimate Mushroom Book by Peter Jordan and Steven Wheeler (Lorenz Books, See page 16, for best fungal forays.

WHERE TO EAT WILD MUSHROOMS

Gwent: every weekend, dozens of kilos of the king of mushrooms known variously as Boletus edulis, ceps, porcini - arrive at the kitchen door of the Walnut Tree Inn. Llandewi Skirrid, near Abergavenny (01873-852797). Picked by local Poles, these are shipped on to London; the Walnut Tree is already full to brimming with mushrooms picked by the proprietors, Ann and Franco Taruschio. It will take many generations before English cooks match Mr Taruschio's handling of porcini. They are fired and served with bracing gremolata on grilled polenta, they go into melting lasagne with ham, codles of rich bechamel, parmesan and wildly generous portions of truffles. They are made into the richest of soups. Open lunch and dinner, Tuesday-Saturday.



Approximately £30 per person. Cash

Hampshire: Le Poussin, The Courtyard, Brookley Road, Brockenhurst (01590-623063) is at the dainty end of the restaurant market. That said, Alexander Aitken, the chef and co-proprietor, has a healthy wild streak: he is a first-class forager for mushrooms. Given the

weather - dry summer, wet autumn, short warm spell - there should be plenty of porcini showing up in his sauces for excellent home-made pasta. Approximately £30-£40. Open lunch Wednesday-Sunday, dinner /ednesday-Saturday. Access, Visa.

London: It is a Clerkenwell Italian who runs the Alba, 107 Whitecross Street, EC1 (0171-588 1798), but the feel is completely Piedmontese, down to the long, narrow dimensions of the main, original dining room. It a leather-clad biker walks stiffly into the place during dining complete a the place during dinner, carrying a large parcel, it will contain the white truffles shipped each year from Italy, and brought by courier from Heathrow. The porcini are picked in England, in highly secret locations. First-class charcuterie, great risottos,



good green salads and perfect dolcettos, barolos and barbarescos to wash them down. Approximately £30, with another £10 per person if you nod to the man with the truffle grater. Open Monday-Friday lunch and dinner. Major credit cards and

Norfolk: East Anglia is carpeted with chanterelles and porcini, but sparsely

populated with people who pick them. When a maverick does hit payload, the haul usually appears simultaneously at any restaurant of note on the north coast, from Rococo in King's Lynn to the Moorings in Wells, to Morston Hall, Morston (01263-741041). The folks at Morston supplement this with regular purchases from a supplier, so the likes of mixed wild mushrooms in puff pastry will likely figure in their four-course dinner menus. These are served Lakeland style, in a single organised sitting at 8pm sharp. Open Sunday lunch, dinner nightly. Lunch £14, dinner £23, with wine etc approximately £30-£35. It accepts all the major credit cards except Diner's.

Emily Green

A little local trouble A weekly round-up

of rural rumpuses

in Chesterfield, Derbyshire this week police arrested two men suspected of keeping birds of prey illegally after numerous goshawks - alive and dead were found at their homes. The men were released on bail pending DNA tests on the birds, to establish whether they taken from the wild. The Peak District National Park is one of the few areas in Britain with a flourishing population of goshawks, but at least five nests have been robbed there already this year. Young birds sell for £1,000 on the falconry black market.

This is the season when hunts hold their annual fund-raising hunt balls. Not to be outdone, next week the East Devon Anti-Bloodsports Group is holding its own event: an Anti-Hunt Ceilidh.

'A tiny, stick-like figure of a man had appeared, and with him a creature one would presume to be his dog, but which looked more like a leopard'

le came home from holiday to an Wautumn such as we may never see again. Not only had the grass reverted to green from the sickly dun colour which the summer heat had baked it, but we found the sheep standing chest-deep in luxuriant verdure, rather than on a brown billiard table. Downpours of rain seemed to have arrested the premature decline of the trees, and everywhere the fruits of the season were ripening in astonishing profusion.

Apples? We cannot give them away. Never in living memory have our trees been so loaded. As the sun blazed down in June, July and August, I feared that the fruit would never attain any size - yet somehow the roots managed to find enough moisture, and our Bramley cookers are colossal. The first single apple weighing more than 1lb was a cause for excitement - but when I had picked 50 that size off one tree, such

monsters became commonplace. Pears, also, have been the best ever. During the drought I took the trouble, every other day, to carry buckets of water from a cattle trough and empty them round the base of Joyce. As he arrived and looked



DUFF HART-DAVIS

one young tree. The result has been fruit of a good size and an indescribable sweetness.

Wild production has been even more spectacular. Acoms and beechmast are cascading down like hailstones, and fungi have gone berserk.

To return home and find all these riches round about was like having a second holiday. Yet the best surprise lay indoors. In our absence the house and animals had been looked after by Len, a retired farmer, and his wife

liked tinkering with old clocks, so I incited him to have a go at our 19thcentury grandfather, which had been keeping time all right, but, whose small central display recording the state of the moon had been stationary for 50 years at least.

Safely back, we found the place in impeccable order, and after a quick hand-over Len departed for home in New Zealand. He was too modest to mention that he had done anything to the clock. But then, on our second morning, I looked at its face and noticed something odd.

Surely the little picture in the middle was not as I remembered it? At the bottom a tiny, stick-like figure of a man had appeared, and with him a creature which one would presume to be his dog, except that in its length and slimness it is reminiscent of a leopard. Both stand on the shore of a shimmering blue lake, on which a flat-bottomed boat like a punt is poised. In the background rises a house of faintly Mediterranean appearance, with shallow

round. Len had mentioned that he gether the picture seems to hover mysteriously between different parts of the world.

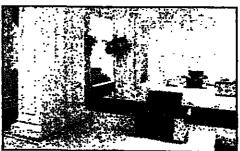
And it is moving! Millimetre by millimetre it is turning. After several days of infinitesimal disappearance, the house has now vanished up to the left, behind the curly clouds represented by the frame. Down from the right has come the cherubic countenance of the moon, its visible crescent growing with astronomically realistic tardiness, until, by the beginning of this week, it was full.

Now I rush down every morning to see how it is doing. There is something magical about the fact that a mechanism dead for half a century has come alive again. I feel like the man in Schubert's song "Das Bild", who stares gloomily at a likeness of his former lover, and in a hair-raising line sees the beloved countenance come stealthily to life. The face that fascinates me is only that of the moon - and, to be honest, the old fellow is rather more rubicund and dimpled than I care for. Yet I find it riveting to gaze at something with which I pink roofs. A tree in the foreground have lived since I was a child, but is neither a willow nor a palm. Alto- which, until now, I have never seen.

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THE FINE ART OF LOFT LIVING



The Manchester businessman who shot his first grouse at 40: a typical Scottish estate owner

By Anne Spackman

language and customs of as remote as the hills themghillies and factors, rods and north Germany. and guns, where sport means stalking, rather than football, on a Saturday afternoon. A property's value depends on the land rather than the house itself, and numbers of game larders and wood stores are as significant as bedrooms and bathrooms.

More and more of those buying a few weekends' fishing or shooting, or even an entire estate, are outsiders who have come to the pleasures of Scottish country life as adults. Success at work has brought them into contact with those to the manor born. They have gone shooting or fishing with them as guests and been bitten by the bug. Roddy d'Anyers Willis, who is a director of the Savills office in Brechin, has seen a number of novices become converts. "You're never too old to catch your first fish," he says. There is nothing a ghillie or stalker enjoys more than a novice, providing the person is a willing listener. But they cannot stand those who think they know it all."

But the sport is only part of the appeal. The biggest attraction, particularly in the Highlands and Islands, is the spectacular landscape, where the scenery changes as often as the weather, where you can stand on a mountain and gaze out to sea, where the air is pure and there is no one to disturb your

o the modern townie, the thoughts. This is what pulls thousands of city-dwellers, not just the Scottish Highlands are from Britain, but from the United States and the densely-populated selves. This is the world of lowlands of Holland, Belgiam

> Gordon Carruthers epitomises today's estate buyer; he fired his first serious shot at the age of 40. He is most easily described as a wealthy Manchester businessman, but he no longer thinks of himself that way. After 11 years as owner of nearly 8,000 acres 60 miles north of Inverness, he thinks of himself as a Highlander. This is not some vain pretence: Mr Car-ruthers spends half his year on the Kintradwell Estate and lived there full-time for more than two years.

Brought up in the bustling retail sector of Manchester, Mr Carruthers' only connection to Scotland was through his father's ancestors. His great-grandparents came from the area where he bought the estate, though he says that was just a pleasant coincidence. Having spent the first 20 years of his adult life carving out a successful career, he decided to take a step back. "There comes a point in your life when you start to think about the way you live," he says. "I felt Scotland was a place I might like to be.

"It's so empty compared with the south. The sense of freedom you get is quite marked. The difference in the quality of the air. the openness, the big skies - it gives you a tremendous feeling of physical well-being."

Kintradwell is a classic sporting

pheasant and grouse shoot, a beautiful hills and empty beaches. bedrooms, three bathrooms and the all-important Aga, plus six cottages, mainly occupied by The Carruthers are leaving Kintradwell, now that their three children have grown up. They are selling the estate, with an asking price of £1.5m, and looking to buy

something more modest. "It's a wonderful feeling to go some-where and stand on a hill and where and stand on a hilf and have a sense of belonging to that particular place," he says. "But it's a big responsibility. You don't own it; you're just the keeper."

Colin Strang Steel of Knight Frank & Rutley in Edinburgh is salling the Kintradwell Estate. selling the Kintradwell Estate. He says it is the sense of belonging, rather than just extra money. which separates those who buy an estate from those who rent or buy a few weekends' sport. "People

get to know a place and they fall in love with it," he says. "It is the total opposite of what they are doing in the rest of their lives." It is easy to imagine falling in love with the Kintradwell Estate. one of the most spectacular properties currently on the market. For the price of a penthouse in Chelsea, the new owner will buy

> Savills 01356 622187; Knight Frank & Rutley 0131

a whole new way of life.



A slice of the Highlands, where sport means stalking rather than footbal

Househunter Blackheath, south-east London



breakfast bar has replaced the altar in the converted Chapel of the Royal Herbert Pavilions, and a gas heater hangs where hymn numbers once were. The huge, curved chamber has been turned into a lavish apartment with one vast 70ft living space with a 28ft ceiling. At the back is an oak-floored galleried bedroom with en-suite shower room, and downstairs is a bathroom and bedroom. Winkworth in Blackheath (0181 852 0999) is asking £299,000.

For what it's worth

ver wondered what the label
"Home Guarantee" tagged on to property details means? Home Guarantee is an insurance policy available to cover any breakdown in your heating, plumbing or electrical systems for a 12-month period. The scheme is aimed chiefly at sellers - as long as they are selling through a member of the National Association of Estate Agents - who can use it to attract buyers to their property. The seller pays a flat fee of £165 out of the proceeds of the house sale - so if there's no sale, there's no fee. Details from 0171 403 2233.

Who's moving

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BDRM. EX VIEWS.

t would be difficult to guess from the tented dining room ceiling and gilded kitchen that No 7 The Pierhead, near Tower Bridge, is the home of Bruno Brookes. It won't be for much longer. The DJ has put his house up for sale or rent through Knight Frank & Rutley in Wapping (0171 480 6848) and is moving to the country, so that his wife can be near her horse.

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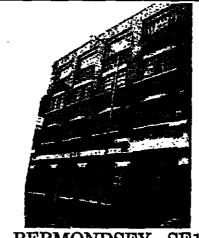
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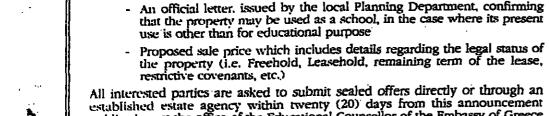
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restrictive covenants, etc.) All interested parties are asked to submit sealed offers directly or through an established estate agency within twenty (20) days from this announcement publication, at the office of the Educational Counsellor of the Embassy of Greece (1a Holland Park, London W11) or at the office of G.P.E.C. in Athens (158A Alexandras Ave. 115 21 Athens GREECE).

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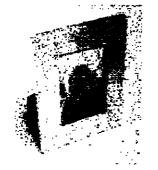
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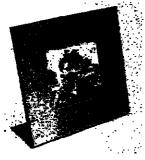
1 Gold, £19.99 Classic and handsome, with a sturdy feel, although it's actually made from gold leaf painted on resin. The bronze and silver versions are equally nice. From Checkpoint: 01423 524407; price includes postage and packing

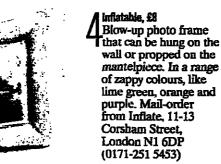




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Photographer: Edward Webb



A cheerful frame hand-made in chunky ceramic by Sally Bourne. It comes in cream, yellow and turquoise with gold extremities, in an attractive brown paper box. From the In Particular catalogue: 0701 0702 027

Emma Hawkins loves wildlife to death. She is a taxidermist

By Charlotte Packer

Hawkins says, gesturing to a room filled from floor to ceiling with stuffed animals. Bear skins are slung over the banisters and beneath our feet lies a zebra skin; there are cases filled with butterflies, beetles and spiders, and high above our heads glass-eyed sporting trophies peer at us from their wooden plaques.

With its mixture of taxidermy and curios, Emma's shop, Hawkins & Hawkins, is a miniature Natural History Museum-cum-props cupboard. Her aim was to recreate a room set aside for collections of scientific or cultural interest, covering anything from fossils to stuffed animals and natural history drawings.

To this she adds whatever takes her fancy. The stranger the better: an elephant ear table, an iguana ashtray and a necklace of gold mounted stag's teeth. On a desk two figures dance together in a garden under a glass dome. "It plays three times. I've never seen one of these musical boxes in such good condition. I buy what I like, after all you've got to be able to live with it. I look for things I've not seen before or simply things that amuse me.

A large case of creatures from Australasia are Emma's link with home in Australia. Her father, an Englishman, is an antique dealer in Sydney and it was through him that her interest in the trade developed. At 17 she came to the UK and worked for a number of dealers before setting up on her own to pursue her passion. She has been surrounded by stuffed animals for as long as she can remember, as a child she slept under the watchful gaze of a stuffed giraffe, whose head and neck sat next to her bed, "The local vet in Australia used to buy from my father and his waiting room was filled with stuffed dogs. He never had any trouble with late payments."

Most of her stock comes from antiques fairs and auctions. "I only their furs. But without these stuffed expensive mistake of popping in specimens, we would have no record with her seven-year-old daughter. had the platypus stuffed. It sat in his memorabilia from the Raj 1877-

have money in of what certain animals looked like. There are no dodos left: all we have is a reconstruction which is not the same thing." Stickers on the door declare her support for the World Wide Fund for Nature and Passports for Animals. To those who suggest that by having anything to do with the trade in dead animals, regardless of their age and provenance, is hypocritical she says: "Why throw out something so beautiful to prove a point? Surely that is a

Her taxidermy is mainly 19th century, when the Victorians' interest in stuffing animals for scientific study, trophies and ornamental purposes was at its height. One of the few later specimens is the head of Victorian cabinet of curiosities; a a tiger, killed in India in 1926 by the woman it hoped to have for lunch. A framed letter from the Churgulia Forest Department describes Mrs Smythies' brave struggle with the "enraged brute". The tiger will soon be leaving for the States. "It's been bought by a vegetarian lion

tamer," Emma explains. Downstairs there are fossils whale teeth, a hippo skull, a stuffed American Heath Hen - now extinct - a case of exotic birds and a couple of skeletons. An iron mantrap with a grisly past is propped against the wall surrounded by board games, hunting knives, weights and scientific instruments. Behind a Victorian screen, a small dog crouches on a bed of dried flowers. "That's Myrtle. I keep her there because she upsets people. But someone obvi-ously loved her. Look at the trouble

they went to when she died." Wherever you look there are extraordinary things and many are surprisingly affordable. A complete trutle on a stand is about £40, a monkey head £210, while the splendid heath hen will set you back £1,200. Prices for taxidermy are governed by the rarity of the creature and the skill with which it has been stuffed. "I look for life and humour. For birds and animals, Roland Ward was the best. He was able to capture their characters so well."

Her clients are varied, ranging. killing animals to stuff them or for recalls one customer who made the owner of the shipyard was furious



The child took one look at a stuffed Hoppen penguin (£135) and refused to leave without it. Penguins are very popular - there is currently a waiting list for them. Other common requests include bats and monkeys, but you can ask for anything and, as long as you are patient, she should be able to get you the llama,

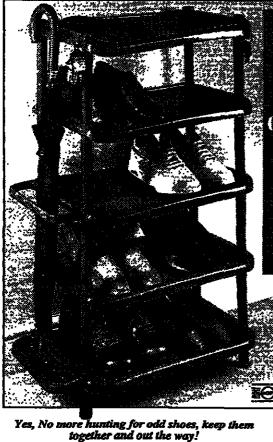
Every item has a story. Particularly moving is that attached to the arrived in a bale of cotton," she explains, "and when it woke up and

office until he died."

At 23 Emma is the voungest of only a tiny circle who specialise in taxidermy and curios. "She has a cult following," says Nick Brawer, a regular customer who has arrived to pay for half a dozen ceremonial lances and a stuffed tiger. He has come straight from an auction in Salisbury and wants to show off his latest polar bear or earwig of your dreams. acquisition. "You are going to love first platypus to reach England. "It into the shop, "I just had to show you. He unveils a dispatch box complete with secret compartments from interior decorators to people scurried out, the dockers were hor- and a fully working mineograph sell antiques; I've no interest in con- who have just been struck by the rified. They had never seen one which can produce unlimited stencils temporary pieces. I don't believe in beauty of a stuffed animal. She before so they beat it to death. The of documents; an early photocopier. Nick, one-time Chilean roller

1914. "My New York apartment is an exact replica of a British officer's quarters in Madras c. 1900," he says. Emma's stock is so edectic that nothing looks out of place, so if a client changes their mind, whatever she has bought on their behalf is simply added to the other treasures. Her office is dominated by a spectacular silver throne. "I've never been able to sell it," and towering this," he gasps as he lugs a large box behind her on an old filling cabinet are a pair of ficry red platforms with dagger heels and gold-edged hearts cut out of the soles. "Aren't they ulous? I had to have them."

> Hawkins & Hawkins, 201 Westbourne Grove, London W11 (0171-221 5218). Wed-Sat 10.30-5pm.



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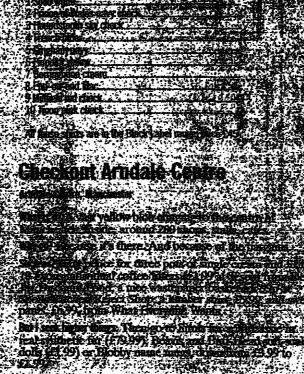
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Top 10 men's shirts at thinks

Shorting take like Are you kinding. There's the theme park takens outside the Waner Brothers State Street Came, a paracise for mone driven period the ID Spins/Nice stop uponed last week by Eric Cantons and an Sarly Learning Centre to cookelf in.

limps? You steet the Voyages Foodcaurt. There's Belies's Callery, Chips Trades, Poster Wilars and Boson's Grill where specials include chill, chips and a regular drink for 17.99. Or spinel out at Salitord Scaport, where cod, chips. mushy peas, roll and lea will set you back £3.95. Barra mushy peas, 45p, corry saute for the chips, 40p.

that tip: That thought northern dress (T-shirts, bikini tops, min starts) is ideal for the Amdale's microclimate. They could grow hansons in here.





Where can I ... buy budget food?

Asda Best buy: washing-up liquid (1 lighter in fisher's to college, where intervall by expected to survive on: afrainal grand fisher. But a linde goes a long year with his supermarkets' interposit with his bleach interposit with hi

htr) 7p. The following are either from the Farm Stores range or lesser-known brands; plain flour (1.5kg) 17p; dustbin liners (50) £1.59; frozen peas (21b) 55p;

Jemonade (2 kr) 27p. From the Savers

chocolate mousse (4) 65p; white bread

Co-up Best buy: Co-up Everyday dog food (400g) 19p. From the Everyday range: car food (400g) 19p; straight-cut chips (1.81kg) £1.81; burgers (20) 79p; tea bags (80) 38p; quiche 99p; fish fingers (10) 39p.



So you want to set up a shop?

We've all thought about it, a few have tried, many have failed. A cautionary tale by Karen Falconer



who started the Wax Lyrical shops with £35,000

ost of us have dreamt at some time thing," says the 34-year-old who stumbled of chucking in the job to start up our own business. And often that dream takes the form of setting up a shop. It seems as though there is a shop for everything, and a lucrative niche to suit every potential shop owner. What's more, you can be your own boss and move out of the city to a country town. It might be hard work, but for your own ends.

According to NatWest, there are now more new start ups in retail than in any other sector, and perhaps surprisingly for a nation which had long regarded shopkeeping as rather a interior profession, a quarter of those taking the plunge come from managerial or professional ranks.

But, there's a risk that setting up shop is becoming a sort of modern-day equivalent to seeing the streets paved with gold, as Bernard Tennant, retail director of the National Chamber of Trade, warns. "A lot of people who've never been in retail think they'll open a little shop. It looks easy, but many people get their fingers burnt. A lot of people have lost a lot of money," he says.

Mr Tennant is not advising people to steer clear of retail. How could he? Everyone has seen the remarkable successes of Body Shop and a plethora of other new shops that have taken local high streets by storm. But, it. doesn't alter the fact that 40 per cent of business start-ups collapse within four years -

and the shop is no exception. To succeed requires a more cautionary than cavalier approach, and however much you feel there's a market for the products you wish to sell, a clear-headed analysis is paramount: is the market you've chosen large enough to give you a living; who is the competition; what are the best profit margins you can achieve; how expensive will the right location be; can you afford any staff or can you cope alone; will you expand to

achieve greater operating efficiency? If you are after an easy life, forget it. The hours will be long: the weekends working.

Wax Lyrical

Majorie Bannister, co-owner of Wax Lyrical, has not had time to look back to her days as a banking consultant since opening a tiny candic shop in 1990. "I was fed up with hanking and felt like pioneering some-

on the idea while working temporarily in Iceland for the national bank. "I was charmed by the way Icelanders used candles. Houses were completely lit by them, and were so much warmer than electric lights. In Reykjavik alone, there were two or three shops which just sold candles. But people in Britain didn't use them. I decided it was a supply problem: they were only available in grocery and back-street stores and were

only promoted for use in emergencies."
Two months after her return to England, she left banking to open a 450 sq ft shop in the relatively inexpensive Richmond. Watching her costs, she spent a mere £35,000 (from a government-backed loan for small businesses) on fitting out her shop and buying stock: she didn't even splash out on a computerised stock-control system. "You have to prove that you can afford to spend money by testing the idea," she says. "Three hundred people bought something on the first day. I was on my own, and couldn't work the cash register, so used a shoe box."

Within nine months, it was clear that Wax Lyrical (which launched the floating candle in the UK) had mass appeal, and she and partner, Mark Chessell opened another shop in Hampstead. Five years later, there are 30 Wax Lyrical shops, over 200 staff and a turnover of around £8m. "Every year," she concludes, "I say we'll have it all sorted next year and we can relax, but it never changes. Now I've got a baby too, I don't even sleep."

Equinox

When Robert Currey set out as a commodity broker, it never crossed his mind that one day he'd be running his own astrology shop and mail order business. But as he began to climb the stockbroking ladder, he became increasingly interested in astrology and decreasingly motivated by trading sugar. "One day I was walking across the room and it came to me. Why on earth don't I become an astrologer?' But, I couldn't

work out how I could make a living," he says. He carried on doing his day job for a few more months to raise some cash, and studied astrology as well as devising computer software in the evenings. Then, in the early Eighties, working from home with two staff, he set up a mail-order business to sell the astrological chart analysis he'd devised.

DOS AND DON'TS

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Research your market carefully.

Who are your customers? Is the market likely to change?

draw up a realistic business plan; represented fixed primit is what you're less with after paying his everything.

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ter and the second Son't per to buy all the latest textilicities, before you know it'll work use into a property. Ask yourself, any the other person is selling.

"We were the first in the world with the concept," he says, proudly. Keeping his costs low, he built his business up over eight years to a regular client base of 20,000. He took a 300 sq ft shop in Neal St in London's Covent Garden. "It was ideal, as it had people from the West End, the City and overseas." he says. He extended his mortgage

to pay for the premium of £35,000. His careful gamble paid off, and two years later, confident about Equinox's future, he bought the freehold on the shop next door, borrowing £650,000 from a French bank. "Our overheads are very high," he says, "but you get what you pay for. If you have the right thing to offer, Neal St is a goldmine. If you don't, it's a nightmare."

For now, the 39-year-old is sticking with one shop, the mail-order business, and the royalties he gets on his chart analysis system. But is he glad he took the plunge? "It's very hard work and I'd have earned more money if I'd stayed in the City. But I'd have less security and capital and wouldn't have the benefits and freedom of doing my own

Franchise owner

Five years after setting up a franchise, Francine Frazer (not her real name) is selling it. She has no plans to return to her previous job as office manager in a national newspaper. But she has decided that running a shop takes more than she is able to give: now she has two young children; she wants her Christmases and evenings back. "Seventy-five per cent of the reason I'm

selling is that I've got children; the rest because of difficult trading," she says. Without a burning idea of her own, Ms Frazer and a business partner decided to try for a franchise. They were accepted. As their first preference for a location had been ear-

marked by an existing franchisee, they opted for an inner-city location. Initially, in spite of the long hours and a bank loan of £100,000 with a £50,000 overdraft facility, everything was rosy: the business hit its sales targets and the partners opened another small shop for "economies of scale". "It's like being on a rollercoaster: once you get on, you don't think it's possi-

ble not to make it," says Ms Frazer. But, then problems started. The franchisor opened a company-owned shop in a new out-of-town shopping centre. "We were down by the exactly the percentage they were taking," she says. To boot, as they were making staff redundant because of appaling Christmas sales (this period normally accounts for 40 per cent of annual turnover), she unexpectedly fell pregnant. She and her partner struggled on, working constantly, until Ms Frazer became pregnant again in November 1994. "The cost of going out to work was increasingly large,"

she says, and put the shop up for sale. Ms Frazer is optimistic she's now found a buyer who will be able to raise the requisite £200,000 for the franchise and also meet the franchisor's approval. "Perhaps I'll try again at some other stage." she says.

> Useful information: Running a Shop by Gary Jones, NatWest Business Handbooks/Pitman Publishing, £11.99; NatWest Bank, among others, runs a Small Business Unit to provide help with start-ups and business plans; most towns have a Chamber of Trade which can provide information on the local market

Gear freaks The sailor

Also known as: dinghy sailor, cruising yachtsman (noncompetitive sailor), racing yachtsman or "winch gorilla" (competitive yachtsman), yachtie (a derogatory term which implies a greater commitment to sailing outlits than to sailing).

Numbers nationally: nearly three million people are regular sailors.

Favourite locations: the Island Sailing Club, Cowes. the Isle of Wight, during Cowes week (August): the English Harbour, Antigua during Antigua Sailing Week (April); Saint Tropez during La Nioulargue Regatta week (October); the Guinness bar, Earl's Court, during London Boat Show (January); Southampton during Southampton Boat Show (September); Royal Yacht Squadron at any time; at sea.

Magazines: Yachting World, Yachting Monthly, Practical Boat Owner, Yachts and Yachting, Motor Boat and Yachting, Seahorse (the organ of Royal Ocean Yacht Club).

Hazards: sea sickness; 40ft waves; the Bermuda triangle; barnacles; rubbish (plastic cartons and bags can take anything from 10 to 80 years to break down in seawater, cardboard, up to five months; orange and banana neel, up to two years); running into other vessels (particularly if sailing in the Solent on a Saturday afternoon); running aground; falling out with other crew members; falling off the boat (more people go overboard in calm weather than rough because they don't hold on as tightly; likewise, man overboard is quite common while having a wee off the side).

The kit: nautical style looks

as good on dry land as on deck - or so say fashion gurus who have helped to launch a sea of deck shoes, Guernsey knits, blue and white stripes and a boatequipment industry which is far bigger than boat building. The recent development of "breathables" - hi-tech foul weather clothing - has not only helped to keep the sailor warm and dry, market leaders Musto and Henri-Lloyd are enjoying healthy sales and cut-throat competition. Both launched their version of the latest snug, storm-beating outfits within days of each other and when the Whitbread Race authorities stipulated that crew members must wear one-piece survival suits, Henri-Lloyd came up with the CO2-insulated Sisstemair (£700) and Musto swiftly followed with its HPX Ocean Dry (£649.95). Musto's latest research has focused not on waterproofing or safety, but on the call of nature. In June the "bog standard" Drop Seat Trouser System was launched. Competitors have yet to respond.

The gear: Henri-Lloyd Ocean Breathable Jacket with Gor-tex outer, taped seams, harness facility and two-way Riri zip, £359, Henri- Lloyd Hi-Fit Bib and Brace Trousers, £249, Musto



Base-Layer thermal underwear, £40; Musto Midlayer Fleece Trouser System, £70; Musto storm cap with Hard-top head protection. £21.95; Douglas Gill 100 per cent rubber and Neoprene boot with non-slip deck-grip sole, £39.95; Namron Neoprene gloves with Kevlar padded palms, £28, Douglas Gill thick water-resistant socks, £6.95; Church saltwater resistant deck shoes with Vibram soles, Kevlar laces and waterproof stitching, £89.95

Accessories: Nautor Swan yacht approx £150,000-£1m (including a lifelong membership of the Swanowners club); Crewsaver and auto-safety harness, £119; Cassio Triple Sensor watch with built-in electronic compass, £159: Vaurnet glare-absorbing sailing sunglasses, £60; Traveleze sea-sickness pressure-point wrist strap, £5.89.

Optional extras: Armolux blue and white Breton Tshirt, £29.95; Secrets of the Titanic National Geographic Video, £10.95; waterresistant headtorch on fully adjustable headband, £32.50; Magdellan Nav 8500 electronic chart plotter with Navionics micro-charts and in-built Global Positioning System (stars, sextants and other more traditional means of navigation are still useful as a back up), £1300.

Ultimate gadget: Joyton Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, £155. Strapped to the arm (or worn in the Eperb compartment of Musto Ocean Jacket, £269) this Eperb or personal beacon will, if you fall over the side. automatically activate an alarm on any passing aircraft and transmit distress signals via satellites to land stations. On the pull of a rip-cord the emergency services can pinpoint you, your yacht and your exact position - if you have programmed your Eperb correctly in the first place. Larger Eperbs, working on the same principal, are available for ships at a cost of £600-£1300.

Bare essentials: chartered yacht, £200-£500 a week; life iacket, £60; boots, £20; waterproof jacket and trousers, £40-£60.

Ultimate experience: hanging in a trapeze over the side of a dinghy, sailing through the toaring Forties in the Whitbread Race; drinking rum punches on deck in the Caribbean.

Can you tell an

Artugid jug from

an Imik pot?

London's

bi-annual

Islamic week

gives you the

chance to try

wice a year, in April and October, London becomes the world centre for Islamic artworks. Iranian dealers fill the salerooms. Any Anglo-Saxons are likely to be sellers, perhaps cager to see whether the loathed Persian ewer left to them by granny will raise the price of a Caribbean holiday. A few Americans, Germans

and Swiss also bid, some affecting to understand the tangled Arabic calligraphy that so eloquently mimics the peaks and troughs of an unpredictable and exasperating market. Buy for decoration ~ inlaid Islamic furniture looks good in

any room - or do some bomework first. Even the western "experts" who mount these auctions regularly blunder, failing to spot fakes or getting estimates hopelessly wrong. The big auctioneers, Christic's and Sotheby's, are

often left with half their goods unsold while the price of the occasional "sleeper" goes through the roof. At Sotheby's last sale, in April, a magnificent 14th century gold inlaid spherical jug from northern

Syria, bearing the name of a sultan of the Artuqid dynasty, was estimated at £10,000-£15,000 - and sold for £128,000. But it was among only 17 of the sale's first 60 lots - mainly early Persian pottery and metalware - that found buyers. Sotheby's had estimated the 9th-13th century wares at £2,000-£3,000 or more each, despite a glut of fresh finds exported through Afghanistan that had reduced their value tenfold.

London's most go-ahead Islamic auctioneer is Bonhams whose expert, Diddi Malek, is a half-Persian, half-English Muslim who speaks and reads Arabic, hobrobs with Middle-Eastern buyers and sellers, and has in three years raised her totals to over £400,000 a sale. She has teamed up with Hamid Atighetchi, an Iranian consultant in Islamic art based

in London. Be aware also of the cultural slots that bidding falls into. The westernised Turks buy Turkish goods but tend to ignore even their own Iznik portery if it bears Islamic calligraphy. By contrast, franians seeking out work from

the 16th century height of Islamic art are not concerned whether it is Turkish or Persian. Among Islamic artworks closest to British cultural and polical history is Indian Mughal jewellery. Bonhams' sale, which has an eclectic selection of paintings, carpets, weapons, iewellery and manuscripts, as well as pottery and metalware, includes a handsome Victorian Indian Mughal gold and silvergilt necklace with rubies, white sapphires and an emerald pendant: est £400-£450.

Bonhams (0171-351

7111): Tuesday, carpets (2pm); Wednesday, Islamic art (11am). Sotheby's (0171-493 8080): Wednesday, manuscripts (10.30am) and carpets (2pm); Thursday, Islamic art (10,30am) and Indian art (2.30pm); Friday, collonades (10,30am & 2,30pm), Christie's (0171-839 9060): Tuesday, manuscripts & miniatures (11.30am) and Islamic art (2.30pm); Thursday, carpets (2.30pm).

John Windsor

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New Wave divers' sea of

Wash out your mask, dust down your flippers and take a deep breath, because

this weekend sees Dive 95, the internal

sub-aqua and watersports show, sur

the NEC, Birmingham. This year's

be swimming with seminars, demos

Ploughmen's hunch for the furrowing Finns?

The wildlife of Nynehead, Somerset, will be taking its annual vacation this weekend, as a fleet of tractors prepares to do battle for the 12th European Reversible and the 45th National Ploughing Championships, Today, 26 competitors from fields as far as Finland and the Czech Republic will be competing for the European Championships. In the next furrow, there will be action from the heats of the British Championships, as 84 seeded and unseeded conventional tractor ploughmen are whittied down to just 17 for Sunday's final. Other competitions will include Horse Ploughing and Vintage Tractor Ploughing (for pre-1960 tractors and ploughs). As Sunday draws to a close, the tension should be unstoppable, with the 17-man plough-off reaching its muddy climax. The victor will then have the honour of representing the Society of Ploughmen in the 1996 World Ploughing Contest in Ireland. As well as the competitive ploughing, there will be a display of vintage tractors and engines, including a 1913 Lister oil engine and a 1902 Gliddons sheepshearing machine, plus trade stands and a craft marquee with wood turning, barrel-making and farmhouse baking on display. And for lunch? Pint of ale and a ploughmans, please. British and European Ploughing Championships, today & tomorrow, Nynehead, Wellington, Somerset (01302 852469), 9am-5pm



Six of the best: fungal forays

Stanton Park car park at Postern Hill, Glos (01793 764649) Organised by the Cotswold Fungus group, this is one of a regular round of mushroom hunts throughout the autumn. The foray is followed by a pub lunch at the Jolly Huntsman at Kington St Michael

New House Wood Upper Cumberworth, Yorks, 01484 606618 for details, 2-4pm, Sun Organised by a kids' environmental club, but nonmembers welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult and should bring a container. Edible varieties will be cooked at the end of the afternoon. 25p per person

Great Holland Pits Nature Reserve (01206 729678) half a mile from Great Holland village centre, off the road to Little Clacton, Essex – the meeting point will be signed, 10am Sun The foray will be led by local mushroom authority, lan Rose, who will be hunting for whatever turns up. The hunt will be a couple of hours long and is free

shings to do,

Howell Hill Cuddington Golf Course, Cuddington Way, Sutton, Surrey (0181-393 2120) meet between the golf course and the stables, 10.30am-1pm Sun A scheme to record all the fungus varieties found on this small chalk grassland site. Last year they discovered 100 types and are expecting to find many more. The foray is led by an authority from Kew Gardens. Free

Crymlyn Burrows Glamorgan (01792 207623) meet at Jersey Marine roundabout between Swansea & Briton Ferry bridge, 10am today Led by fungi enthusiast, Teifion Davies, the aim is to teach people to identify edible mushrooms and to show them varieties to be avoided. Most people should be able to take a few home for supper. The area is also rich in wildlife. Free

Nower Wood Educational Nature Reserve B2033 between Leatherhead & Headly, Surrey, guided walks 10.30am, 2.30pm Sun, 01372 379509 for details Fungus walks and talks, plus selfguided tours of the nature reserve. Highlight will be the deadly Fly Agaric. £1 car park, 50p walks



The North/South divide can be illustrated by many things, but the difference in the cultural understanding of a mod is as good as any. An Comunn Gaidhealach has been organising mods for over a hundred years, but never in Brighton and always concerning itself with more tones than two. This week, a plaid-wearing mod returns to Sutherland after 18 years and is expected to attract some 10,000 people. The 1995 Royal National Mod is the third largest Scottish festival (a mod being a highland gathering with musical and literary competitions, not a Vespa-driving Who fan) and brings together around 2,000 contestants. An Comunn Gaidheatach (Gaelic for The Highland Association) was set up in 1891 to preserve Gaelic culture. Evidence that this has become an uphill struggle is indicated by the falling number of Gaelic speakers - in 1891 the number was 241,000, a century later the number had fallen to just 82,000. Anne Draper, newly elected president, says that this year the number of children competing has gone up -"and it is the children that will further the Gaelic traditions in the future". Competitions will be held. categories including piano, fiddle, accordion, vocals, drama and ceilidhs for both adults and children.

Events in and around Golspie and Brora, Sutherland, until Fri; for further information call 01408



film

West End also attaside London
 APOILO 13 (PG) True story of the 1970
 Apollo 13 mission. Barbican Chema Sat 2.30, 6.00, 8.40; San 8.00; Empire Leicener Square 12noon, 3.00, 0.00, 9.00, 12midnight (Sat); Baker Street MGM 2.10, 5.10, 8.10; Fulham Road MGM 12.20, 3.20, 6.10, 9.20; Trocadero

335, 630, 930, 12.15am (Sat); Odeon Marble Arch 2.15, 530, 830; UCI Whiteleys 1.00, 3.40, 625, 9.10

LE RALIDS FOR (PG) A young boy dreams of becuming a world-class footballer. Barbican Cinema Sat 6.30; Sun 7.30

BUSHER FORDER (PG) Third instalment of the Barman adventures. Warner West End 1.15, 4.10, 6.45, 9.30, 12.05am

1.15, 4.16, 0.07, 200, 1220am THE BIG SLEEP (15) Howard Hawks' thriller. Curron Phoenic 3.35, 6.00, 8.25 BLEE BIGE (15) Cornish surf movie. Odeon Mechanine, Lenester Square 2.35, 6.00, 8.30 © BRIEFERED (15) Med Gärson directs and stars. Chelser MCM 12.30, 4.30, 8,15; Odeon Library Exemptions 51, 13.65, 4.8, 15; Odeon Library Exemptions 51, 13.65, 4.8, 15; Odeon High Street Kenningson Sat 12.45, 4.25, 8.05, 11,45; Sam 1.25, 4.05, 8.45; Odeon Messanine Leirester Square 250, 7.40; Swiss Cottage Odeon 12.15, 4.20, 8.10; Plaza 12.15, 3.45,

7.15, 10.45 (Sat)

HE BREEGES OF MARKED CORRTY (12) Client
Extracoul bas an affair with a lonely farmer's
wife in lown. Fullham Road MGM 12:30, 325,
6.20, 9.20; Haymarket MGM 1.30, 4.45, 8.00;
Swiss Cottage Odeon 2.15, 5.20, 8.20; Ricy
Corema 1,00 (not Sunh, 3.40 + Jason's Lyric
(Sun 1.25), 6.25, 9.15, L'ambringht (Sat); UCI
Whiteleys 3.50, 9.15; Warner West End
120.00, 2.40, 5.25, 8.30, 11.30
BURGHT BY HE SMI (15) A wife's exchondriend

BURNIT BY THE SENI (15) A wife's ex-boylitiend nepurns. MGM Swiss Center 2.10, p.00, 9.00; The Minema 3.00, 6.00, 8.35; Ritty Cinema Sat 4.20, 6.55; Sun 4.00, 8.30

CASPS (PG) A little girl befriends a ghost. Trocaters MGM 12.15, 2.30; Swiss Cott Odens 1.30, 4.00; Plaza 1.00; UCI Whiteleys 10.20m; 12.50.

10.3 am, 12-10
GIT OF LOST CHILDREN (15) A men kidnaps chil-dren to steal their dreams. MGM Swiss Centre 155, 4-15, 6-40, 9.10; Toutenham Court Rand MGM 2.00, 4-30, 7-00, 9-30; Ricy Conema Sat 1-50, 6-50, 11-25 + Brazal (late); Warner West End 9,10, 11-25 (Sum)

COLD FEIER (15) A Japanese performs a burial ritual for his parents. Haymarket MGM 2.10, 4.25, 6.40, 8.55; Odean High Street Reministra 10.00, 12.10am (Sot) O DE HARD: WITH A VENGENICE (15) Action turiller: Tracestern MGM 12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.25, 12midnight (Sat); Odeon Memorine, Leicester Square 2.25, 5.45, 8.25; Soits Compression of the Co

DOLORES CLABORNE (18) Stephen King thriller. Wilmer West End 3.30, 8.50 DON JUNE DE BURCO (15) Marion Brando stars. Panton Seret MGM 2.05, 4.30, 7.15, 9.30 DIE EXDECET (18) Classic horror. Trocadero EDTICA (18) Atom Egoyan's crotic drama Panton Street MGM 205, 440, 7,05, 9,25 ■ FURSET PARTS (12) Billy Crystal directs and

ú

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stars. Chelsen MGM 9.50; Odeon High Street Kensingson 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30, 12midnight (Sat); Swiss Contage Odeon 6.30, 9.15, 11.30; Odeon Wes End, Leicenter Square 1.35, 4.00, 6.20, 8.50, 11.45 (Sat); UCI Whiteleys 1.30, ● FREE WILLY 2 (U) Marine adventure. Tro-caders MGM 1215, 230; Warner West End

12.10. 2.10 De RIBIT BORES (15) See Critic's Choice.

Clopham Picture House 1.30, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15;

Odeon Haymarke 2.00, 5.25, 8.30; Ricy Circums 3.00 + My Life As A Dog (Son 1.05),

S.45, 8.30; Warner West End 1.230, 3.05, 5.40,

8.40, 11.00 INSER LEMBING (15) Ice Cube's examination of the racism and sexism of current-day America. Translero MGM 6.30, 9.10, 12mid-

LOST COLLER OF THE DOVE (18) Barbican Cinema Sun 5.15

Sun 5.15
A LOW BORN MENY SIRME (18) Action thriller spoof, Warner West End 11.45
THE MONESS OF ING SERRE; (PC) Alan Bennett's comedy, McGM Switz Cerine 2.00, 4.20, 6.45, 9.30; Odeon Measurine 3.00, 6.10, 8.30 instillers with the company small-town girl dreams of marriage. Warner West End 4.20, 6.40
MY SERRY (15) Measure family son Place.

4.20, 0.40 MY FMBLY (15) Menicon family saga. Flaza 12.43, 3.20, 5.55, 8.30, 11.15 (Sot); Winner West End 12.40, 6.10 NATURAL BOOK BILLERS (18) Offiver Scone's vio-lent epic, Warner West End 11.40 THE HEAD SHILE (15) A boy's grows up in the bible-thamping deep south. Lumiere 12.45, 2.45, 4.50, 6.55, 9.05

2-03, 4-03, 4-03, 9 mpoter fraud drama.

Chelsen MCM 1.00, 3-40, 6-40, 9-20; Odeon
High Street Ren 1.40, 4-20, 7.00, 9-40, 12 Zham
(Sal); Swies Cottage Odeon 1.00, 3-45, 6-25,
9.15, 11-45 (Sat); Odeon West End 1.00, 3-35,
6.10, 8-45, 11-50 (Sat); UCI Whiteleys 12-45,
3.30, 6-10, 8-45

DESTRUCTION (18) A student subsidises his great by working in a mortuary. Mero 2.00, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15; Piccodilly MGM 1.30, 3.45, 6.10, 8.30 POCHEOTIES (U) Disney adventure about a

Native American chief's daughter and her love for an English soldier. Claphons Picture House 11.45cm (Sat), 1.00 (not Sat), 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00; Chebes MGM 12.35, 2.25, 4.15, 6.10, 8.00; Odeon High St Ken 1.00, 3.15, 5.20, 7.50. Chebes College (Sat), 1.00, 1.15, 1.00, 1.00; Chebes MGM 12.35, 2.25, 4.15, 6.10, 8.00; College (Sat), 1.00, 1.15, 1.00, 1.00; Chebes MGM 12.35, 1 5.30, 7.45; Odeon Leicster Square 11.50am, 2.45, 5.45, 6.30; Swiss Conage Odeon 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.05; 11.15 (Sat); Screen on Back Street 3.40, 5.35, 7.25, 9.15; UCI Whiteleys 10.40am, 12.30, 2.35, 4.45, 6.45, 9.20 ● PRESI (15) A Catholic priest finds his faith challenged by his semality in Antonin Bird's film. Poston Street MGM 2.10, 4.35, 7.05, 9.25 HART PRINTS SEED WAS TAXANDO CHIEF. Empire Leir Sq 12.05, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00, 12:mid-night (Sat)
RES FERTAMORE, GREEF PRESENCER (15) Chimese tale of fillest desire. Metro 1.15, 3.45,

6.30, 9.00 LA PERE MARSOT (18) (aubticles) Israbelle Adjuni stats. Gate Nating Hill Sun 1.30; Pantons Street MGM 2.10, 5.30, 8.40 RIFF RIFF (15) Claphon Picture House Sun

tion couple with a child go through the trau-mas of a trial acparation. MGM Swiss Contre

SPRIGNE THE MORREY (18) A son's care for his mother turns into incest. Piccadilly MGM 1.30, 3.45, 6.10, 8.30 2001: A SPACE DUTSSET (U) Ritay Cinema late 11.35 (Sat)

● SPECES (18) Science fiction thriller. Entable Leicester Square 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45, 11.30; Baker Sneet MGM 1.25, 3.50, 6.10, 8.40; Chelses MGM 1.40, 4.25, 6.50, 9.35; Tro-cadero MGM 12.05, 2.20, 4.35, 7.00, 9.25, 12.30am (Set); Plean 1.30, 3.55, 6.20, 8.45, 11.35 (Set); UCI Whiteleys 11.45am, 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.35

A 30, 700, 9.35

INE LAW (18) Barbican Chema Sun 3.00

■ THE USBL SPECIS (18) Five known felous plan another crime whilst in custody. Gate Notting HEE 9.15, 11.30 (Sat), Fullmare Road MCM 1.40, 4.10, 7.00, 9.40, Haymarket MCM 2.00, 5.00, 8.00; Sheflesbury Avenue MCM 2.00, 5.00, 8.00; Sheflesbury Avenue MCM 2.30, 5.50, 8.45; Ricty Chema Sat 11.25 + Miller's Crossing. Sun 2.00, 6.30; Screen on Baker Street 3.50, 6.25; 8.45; UCI Whiteleys 2.05, 4.35, 7.05, 9.30; Wanner West End 12.50, 3.50, 6.30, 9.20, 12.10am

■ WILERWORLD (12) Kevin Costner block-buster. Trocaders MCM 6.00, 9.00; Plaza 3.05, 5.50, 8.40, 11.15 (Sat)

WELL FUN WEEK SLEPSIN (PG) Romantic com-

MRLE FULL HERE SLEPTING (PG) Romantic com-edy, Tonenhara Court Road MGM 1.55, 425, 7.10, 9.40; Odens High St Kersington 2.15, 445, 7.15, 9.45, 12.15cm (Sat); Odeon Meza-nice 2.55, 6.15, 8.45; UCI Whiteleys 12.50, 3.20, 6.20, 8.50 THE WILD BURGH (18) 1969 classic following the

adventures of a group of ageing outlaws. Surfactury Avenue MGM 200, 5.00, 8.15, 11.30 (Sat); Warner West End 2.15, 5.15, 8.15, T00 SD CB027 (18) Electric Chema Sat 7.00, NOBIE POISOMER'S IMMOBOOK (18) A 14-year-old poisons his family one by one. Tottenham Court Road MGM 2:05, 4:35, 7:00, 9:35

Court Road MGM 2.05, 4.35, 7.00, 9.35
phase numbers
0171 except where noted
Barbigan Chema 638 8891; Chekea Cinema
351 3742; Chapteon Picture House 498 3323;
Carzon Mayfan 369 1720; Curton Phoenix 369
1721; Curzon West End 369 1722; Electric Cocura 792 2021; Empire Leir Sq 0990 886990;
Gate Noting Fill 727 404; Lampiero 379 3014;
Metro 437 0757; Baker St MGM 935 9772;
Chekea MGM 332 3096; Fullham Rd MGM
0181-970 6011; Harwaschet MGM 89 1527. 0181-970 6011: Hawmaket MGM 839 1527: VIGIA-9/1001 (; Faymanica: Ballon 437 124; Pentana St Bergin 930 0631; Pice MGM 437 3561; Shaftesbury Ave MGM 836 6279; MGM Swiss Centre 437 2004; Tost Ct Rd MGM 636 6148; Trocadero MGM 434 0832; The Minessa 235 4225; Notz Hill Coronet 727 6705; Richmond Filmhouse (081-337 0090: Ritze

Carema 737 2121; Screen on Baker Street 935 2772 Screen on the Green 226 3520; Screen on the Hill 435 3366; UCI Whiteleys 0990-88899; Warner West End 437-6343. 1 9 Just 101 y Ciliënta's
Sectional opposite Hampstead Tube NW3
(0171-435 1525)
Bullets Over Broadway (15) Sar L. L. Spar,
L. Opp., 9. Opp., + Manhattan Marder Mystery (PC) 3. 10 pm, 7.05 pm Fast Tames At
Radgemost High (18) J. L. Spar, + Tron, Animation Festival San (Ring For Denaits)
ICA CHIEM The Mall SW1 (0171-900 3647)
Changing Express (12) San 3 pm, Span, Types
+ Short repertory cinemas

+ Short

#I South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232)

Noon Wine Set 12.30pm Whistling in The

Derk Set 3.30pm + Shadow of Doubt (1935)

Free Willy 2 (U) Set 4pm The Ballad Of

Cuble Hogne (15) Set 6.10pm The Italian Job

(U) Set 6.15pm The Tall T Set 7.30pm Eastica (18) Set 8.30pm McCabe & Mrs Miller

(18) Set 8.40pm

Fast Company Sun 3.30pm + The Case of the Howing Dog Free Willy 2 (U) Sun Ipus Boys On The Side (15) Sun 6.20pm The Greengags Sunnter Sun 6.15pm Wild Straw-berries (15) Sun 7.30pm Bad Timing (18) Sun 8.30pm Straw Dogs (18) Sun 8.40pm PROEMI High Road NZ (10181-883 2233) Michall Merchin Poser Runners (PG) Linn Michall Merchin Poser Runners (PG) Linn Highty Morphin Power Rangers (PG) I Iam, 12.55pm. The Young Poisoner's Handbook (18) 2.45pm (Sat) 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.05pm. Orphice (PG) San 1.15pm + La Testament D'Orphice 3pm. Plante (1811) Set Invited (1812) Set Invited (1813) Set Invited (1813) Set Invited (1814) Set Invited (1814) Set Invited (1815) Set Invited (181

633907/908, tickets £4-£1.50, 9am-6pm daily

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place (0171-437 8181)
Clerks (18) Sar Jam Ed Wood (15) Sar Jam
Jack And Sarah (15) Sar J-Ciper Bed Boys (18)
Sa Jam Once Were Wartican (18) Sar 1/3 Jam
D'Artagnan's Doughter (15) San 1.3 Jam BulJets Over Broodway (15) San 1.3 Jam BulJets Over Broodway (15) San 1.3 Jam Clerks
(18) San 6.3 Jam The Adventures Of Princilla,
Queen Of The Desert (15) San Jam Clerks
(18) San 6.3 Jam The Adventures Of Princilla,
Queen Of The Desert (15) San Jam
Bit Kingsland High 9 186 (0171-254 6677)
The Pagemaster (U) I Jam Le Colonel
Chabett (PG) Japan + La Reine Margot
(18) J.3 Jam The Young Poisoner's Handbook (18) 6.3 Jam The Young Poisoner's Handbook (18) 6.3 Jam A. Sapan Pulp Fiction (18)
I. L. Lipm
Strikes Suitus Crisp Rd W6 (0181-741 2250)
Fun (18) Sar 6.4 Jam + Butterfly Kiss (18)
8.5 Jam Strow Boatt (1936) (U) Sar 2 pm +
Cabin in the Sky (PG) 4 jam Take Me Out To
the Bail Game San Jam + Seven Brides for
Seven Brothers (U) San 3.4 Span The Leopard
(PG) San 6.3 Jam

(PG) Sur 6.30pm WILLIAMS AND CENTER High Street, Brentford WAILEMASS ACTS CENTER High Street, Brentfor TWB (0181-568 1176) Mighly Morphin Power Rangers (PG) Sun Lillyon Before The Rain (15) Sun 6.15pm; Sun Pyon Red Firecracion; Green Pirecracio, (15) Sun 8.30pm; Sun 7pm Sunday In The Country (PG) Sun 3pm + These Foolish Things (PG) Spm

theatre West End

MAGE RETURNS
Willy Russell's long-ramming musical.
Placetic Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369
1733-9 Lete Sq/Ton Cr Rd, Mon-Sat 7.45, [5]
3.00, [7] 4.00, £9.50-£27.50.

Henori Musical biog of Beddy Holly. Swand Aldwych, WCZ (0171-930 8800) ◆ Covent Gardon. The-Thu 8,00, Fei 5,30 & 8,30, Sat 5,00 & 8,30, [1] 4,00, £9-£28.50.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical version of Eliot's feline poens. New London Drury Lane, WC2 (0171-405 0072kc 4044079) & Covent Garden/Holb Mon-Sat 7.45, [3][7] 3.00, £10.50-£30. CONTRACTOR ROCKS Alam Ayddourn's comedy thriller.
Gielpus Stantiesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494
5066) ⊕ Pioc Circ. Mon-Sas 7.30, [4][7] 3.00,
58.50-£24.

COLOR FOR THE Genthrin musical spectacular.

Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1
(0171-7348951) & Leic So/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45, [7] 3.00, £11.50-£30. DENTEK Z COKORĆE

Beimda Lang and Kevin McNally star. Sevey Strand (0171-836 8888) @-Char X. Mon-Pri 8.00, Sat 8.15, [4] 2.30, [7] 5.00, £10-£72-50. DEB GRETY Richard Harris's thriller. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenne, W1 (0171-494 SURI) ← Picc Circ, Moon-Fri 8,00, Sat 5,00 & 8.15.1513.00, ends 6 Jan. EB-E22



CINEMA RYAN GILBEY

Funny Bones Peter Chelsom's film concerns itself with the business of comedy but it's far more affecting as a glimpse at the darkness that hides at the core of all comedians (witness Jerry Lewis, monstrous here as the father of failed comic Oliver Platt and undiscovered clown Lee Evans).

BOAT BRESS FOR BROKES Royce Mills stars in the French fairce. Duchers Cosherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 S075/cc 379 4444) & Covent Garden. Mon-Fri 8.00, Sat 5.00 & 8.30, [4] 3.00, £8-£18.50. umum mr. Tom Stopperd's lesest, with Niemth Cusack, Aldrych Aldrych, WC2 (0171-4166003) ⊕ Holborn, Mon-Set 7.30, [4][7] 3.00, £10-£25. Stage version by David de Silva.

Cambridge Earlman St (494 5080) & Covt
Gdn. Mon-Sat 7.30, [4][7] 3.00, £10-£25. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ Mon-Sat 7-30, [5][7] 2-30,

Carlot Petern' lively manical,
Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369
1730/cc 867 1111) & Leit Sq. Mont-Thu 8.00,
Pri & Sat 6.00 & 8.45, £5-£28. Film Money
Sylvin Syms and Henry McGee star.
Playhouse Northsumberland Avenue, WC2.

(0171-839 4401) + Embenkment. Mo 8.00, [5] 3.00, [7] 5.00, 25-220. THE CLASS MEMORIE.
Tensorace Williams' tragic drama.
Dommar Warehouse Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) & Leic Sq. Toe-Sat 8.00, [1][5][7] 4.00, code 5 Nov, £12-£19.

GEERSE Stage version of the his film. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (U171-416 6060) & Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30, [4][7] 3.00.£10.£27.50.

Leo McKem in Harold Brighome's comedy. Lanic Staticabury Avenue, W1 (0) 7] 494 5045) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30, [7] 3.00, cods 9 Dec, 88-424. **TENINGS** Installating
Harold Flatch contedy.

Camedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731)

◆ Pice Carolicic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45, [5] 3.00, [7]

4.00, ends 16 Dec, £10-£22-50.

THE MIPORTURE OF SEARCH GUIDEST Tony Hands directs thartom Leigh-Hant in Oscar Wilde's comedy. Old Vic Waterloo Road, SE1 (8171-923 7616) O/BR: Waterloo, Mon-Sat 730, [4][7] 3.00, cads 18 Nov. 16-172



ART JAIN GALE

Dynasties In an enlightened exhibition looking at the too little-known art of the 16th and 17th centuries in Britain, the Tate reveals some gems of its collection including works by Holbein, Betts, Oliver and Hilliard. The Tudor world will never look the same again. Tate, London

NOTAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY:

John Osborne play. Today 2.00 & 7.15

oorgane.

The Pir Sur Of A Han Dennis Potter's drama. Today 2.00 & 7.15 Rambican Theatre: £6-£24, The Pur!

cal of Victor Hugo's ma

Mangham's take of a colonial scandal.

Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-74)

2311) & Hammersmith, Last performances

230 & 730, £750-£15, standby cones.

Staging of the witty film musical.

Barbiam Cheme I Barbican Centre, EC2
(0171-638 8891) & Barbican/Moorgate, Sun,
4.15,£11, concr.18.50.

Peter Hall directs Alan Bates.

Theatre Royal Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) & Fice Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00, ends 6 Jan, £10-£26.

Madam Senterby react in Victnem.
Theatre Royal, Dray Lone Catherine Street,
WC2 (0171-494 5060) 49 Covent Garden.
Mon-Sat 7.85, [4]71,3.00, 82.50-630.

Agatha Christie's whodennis. \$7 Munite's West St (0171-836 1443) ◆ Leic Sq. Mon-Set 8.00, [3] 2.45, [7] 5.00, £8-£22.

Olinier A Little Might Husic Scan Mathias's production.

Today 2.00 & 7.15 Lymphon: The Way Of the World Phythica Lloyd's product

ICYAL MATHOMAL THEATHE

DISCORED THE LOST MUSICALS LOVE LIFE

Show based on the life of Music Hall performer Marie Lloyd.
Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238)

O Covent Garden/Holborn. Sun 3.30, ends 3

Dec. £7.50-£17.50



THEATRE DAVID BENEDICT

Anna Karenina Giles Croft's inaugural production as artistic director of the Watford Place Theatre is a new production of Helen Edmundson's adaptation of Tolstoy's terrifyingly good love story which was such a success for Shared Experience.

Palace Theatre, Watford Cottesioe: Shright Michael Gambon and Lia Williams

THE STRINGTO OF CHRISTISMOM
Sobsition Barry's tender Irish drama.
Association String Square, SWY (1171-730)
1745) © Strans Sq. Man-Sat 7,30, ends 21
Oct, ES-ELS, comes available. supus Microsci Cambon and Lia Williams star. Today 230 & 730 Olivier: £1 L50-£30, Lymelton: £7.50-£22.50, Cottesloe: £10-£14.50, Day seats from 10am, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) 9/BR: Waterloo. SINSE BOILERING
MUSICAL VERSION OF THE DAY WINDOWN Addition Strand (U171-344 (U157) & Chart X. MuniSat 7.45, [5] 7] Lang (15-2.25). THEORY STORES

The Barbican: A Patrick For No The RSC's first production of a A conductor is tarred by Nazsen.
Control Piccodilly Circus, W1 (W77-KW)
4880 9 Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30, [4][7] 2.30,
17-022-50. Barbican Theatre: E6-£24, The Pre: £10-£16. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8991) Barbican/Mooreaue.

JUSTE TATT ALGORITH times met reprise Edward Alber's medanmed drama. Binniham's Char X Rd, WC2 (0) 71-byl 174 O Lese Sq. Tue-San R00, [4]77 3.00, Co.O.C. ME MONTH IS STATE Strom Hill's challing ghout stay.
France Russell Street, WC 2007145th 2200

Cuxent Garden Holborn, Man-Sat 800, [
3.00, [7] 410, 58.59-520

The Young Viz.

Par Gut John Bartuu's version of liver's epic fable. Last performances notay 2.00 & 7.15

Young Viz. 61.2.18. The Cut. SET (0171-028
6363) G/BR: Waterloo. Jun Dele stars as Pagin.
London Pulluthan Argyll Street, W1 (017).
494 5720/5038) & Onford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.31.
[4][7] 2.30, £10-£30. **Beyond the West End** London ALMEIDA THEATRE

OUT A LEE TOWER'S Will included: Musical celebration of Roy Orbison. Picconfily Denman Street, W1 (017): 369 1734) & Picc Circ. Tue-Thu 8.00, Fri 5.15 & 8.15, Sal 5.00 & 8.30, [1] 4.00, 25-125. **医阿斯特氏连续的** Incrementary of the contain Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothie musical. Her Magash's Haymarhet (0171-494 SALII) & Pice Circ. Man-Sal 7.45, [4] 7] 3.01, £9-£4).

阿智能知此 too in measure. Ron Hutchinson's political Irish drama. Duke of York's St Martin's Lune, WC2 (0)71-836 5122) ⊕ Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sal 7.30, [5]77 3.00, ends 18 Nov. E5-€22-50. STATICAL STATES? SDMLRHS EAPRESS Lloyd Wether's high-tech roller-musical, Apollo Victoria Wilton Rood, SW1 (R171-410 6170) O/BR: Victoria, Mon-Sat 7.45, [3][7] 3.00, £12.50-£30. which Produced Through Others's tragedy is revived. More-Set Spot, most Set Spot, each? Dec. 15 50-116-50, awar medaluk Altarahi Street, NI (1071-369-340) & Augel

Buttle HEARD
Buttle Means political face by forch
Anderson and Parvi Machenian (2)
performance to the face, from \$7.5
cone worlder, Mon & mot Sat pay county
can Kalburn High Read, NWo (4) 71-328
High & Kalburn Around the country Bath

Office of the second

THEATRE ROTAL School For Standal Sherndan's controls of manners stare Dava Havan and Databale Landern. Last performances had n. 2. Riptille Jam. 13-2. Causes symiable. Sawickae (11725—146644); e. Sawickae (11725—146644);

dunity

exhibitors, there's the chance to buy anything from a 39kg lift dual retractable buoyancy com pensator to a week's holiday in the Red Sea. However, no sub-aqua show would be care. plete without some talk of gases, and make ning alongside Dive 95, there is a two day conference, Eurotek, devoted to New Months and Technical Diving, where teken discussing such things as nitrox and rebreathing. If all that ma title out of your depth, the dive tank on hand where a est underwater goodie 95/Planet Tek, to

e evertor King Harold shiploads of Norwegian invaders: their king was

4,000 soldiers met at Settac fill ings to do battle for the English comm. By the the conqueror. Poor old Harold. He'd only been crowned in January, and things had been looking so good in September he'd defeated 300

killed and all that remained of their army barely filled 20 ships. But the exertions were to prove too much for the English army. They had little time to recover before news of the Norman invasion reached them and they were back on the road for the 190-mile march from Stamford Bridge to Hastings. It was a bloody conflict, and Battle Abbey was built on the spot where Harold fell, to atone for the carnage. This afternoon the battlefield will once again witness the clash of Norman and Saxon armies, though without the bloodshed. Comprising at least 500 warriors, foot soldiers, mounted knights and archers, the re-enactment is being staged to mark the publication earlier this summer of the English Heritage Battlefields register which aims to protect the most significant battlefield in England. Armour, equipment and battle tactics are as authentic as possible, with the soldiers being played by professional re-enactors who have researched accounts of the battle. Grounds open 10am, living history & mini-

displays 12noon, battle 3pm, Battle Abbey, Battle, E Sussex (01424 773792); £6 /£5 concs, £3 kids, English Heritage members free

this weekend

Meet Ken, the 3,000-year-old Egyptian with a shocking smile

Few things are as terrifying as mummies, the stuff of countless camp horror flicks, and scary precisely because you can't see what's beneath the inscrutable cotton. No longer. A new exhibition sets forth the results so far of the Bristol Mummy Project, started in 1981, in which a mummy has been unwrapped and the body extensively analysed. So, who's the man receiving a rude awakening after 3,000 years of oblivious swaddling? Horemkenesi, that's who (let's call him Ken for short) - a chief workman in charge of tombs in the Valley of the Kings. We know this from inscriptions on his coffin, but medical analysis reveals much more. A fragment of aorta indicates clogging of Ken's main artery, which probably caused his death at a ripe old age somewhere in his late fifties. He had terrible teeth, apparently because so much sand got in your food in the desert that it would wear down the enamel - and he tested positive for malaria and a rather nasty Egyptian worm. But, contrary to the popular image of the pyramids being built by starving slaves, Ken was extremely well-fed. The exhibition teaches you all this and more, and thanks to some ciever computer modelling, you can stare Ken in the face - if you've the guts for it. After all; aren't there fatal curses attendant upon violation of the

Egyptian dead? Curator, Sue Giles, is cheerfully sanguine. "At the time there were organised gangs of tomb-robbers, and they probably spread the rumours of a curse themselves, to protect their patches." Ah well. It's a wrap, guys. Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery, Queen's Rd, Bristol (0117 922 3571); 10am-5pm, £2, kids free

LISTINGS





ROCK ANGELA LEWIS

Caliphz British Asian rap combo. with a clutch of cool, politicallyonscious singles behind them. upport Black Grape. It's a chance o catch high-energy offerings from heir forthcoming album Seven readly Sins. Kentish Town Forum, .ondon, tonight

20 SESTABLE THEATRE certaine, manife erry Hands' production of a fable on values. Les performances today four. 1956-225 Al concertailable. «Park (4)243-281312)

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<u>urd-upon-Avo</u>n RESPERING MEANINE
(ATTRES SAME STRAKES PLEATE STRAKES AND ASSESSED STRAKES PLEATE AS ASSESSED AS ASSES SESPENIE THEATRE

in Vambrugh's heistereus Restoration valurated by Lan Judge In rep. today x 54-125-50, comes available. Ja Ass Manthew Warehus directs. In

A Charge Mon-Thu 7.45pm. Fri & rnds 20Oct. 0s4114 % comes 14 renden Royal (01923-225071)

ibitions

Magas Serge Miles of Mad The Hogy raphy em Estuary, Mon-Sun Ham-7pm, os, free, Canon's Rd (0117-9253545)

MALTER hat Three paintings including The Mrs. Sat Ham-upon San Ipon-5 New, tree. Trafalgat Squ. Tc, W.C.2 13211 @ Charing Univ. FOR OF MITS ut of a Continued Mayor Cubible Altricant and through the cent



CLASSICAL ROBERT MAYCOCK

The Future Sound of England ~ there's a confident title for you. Sunday's South Bank feast of top performers runs from classical to jazz, Indian to African, and they all come together in Shiva Nova's evening concert of creative encounters. South Bank, London

Mon-San Ham-épan, esok 21 Jan. 15, conce £3.50. Burlingson House, Piccadilly. W1 (0171-4397435) ◆ Piccadilly Circus.

SAMES GALLEY

Beng Rifts Attact Work by Glenn Brown,
Krish Coventy, Hadriss Pigest and Kerry
Steasort. The San 12 noon-from, ends 17 Dec.
Thu free, Fri-San 12.30. Boundary Road,
NWS (U171-024 8299) BR: South Hampstend

Pagither to Pap Group show including work by Blake, Junes, Heront and Riley, Mon-Fri (Com-Open, ends 31 Ocs, Free, Duke Street, St James, SW1 (017)-930 93321 & Green Park.

ASSIMOLEM MUSEUM Maderated's Children Engravanga by Gestrade Herrines and Blant Higher-Stanton. Tue-Sta Ram-Jens, San Zone-Jens, ends 11 Feb., free. Hessinson Street (#1/865-278100)

humais I house Recent abstract publishes. Man Huma-Sun. The Sar (Idan-dym, San 5.30pm-7.30pm, ends today, free. Lone St (01753-660160)

DOMESTATISE BIRGS 1828 How Thurns: MCs for Dylan Moman, Jack Conting, Robert Lloyd, John Mann. Tomisth R Silpm, Cronch End Hill, (181-34) (US) & Finstany Park, US, conc. 54, m Sulp Silp.

natura (Austre 1 at 1912 December 2012) Terry Alderton, Mark Maier and Dublin's superine Ed Byrne with Ian Stane. Tonight Spin, Bedfard Hill, SW12 (1981-673 1756)

DIE CALLERY

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Oxfo<u>rd</u>

Plymouth ______

London

PLYMOUTH ARTS CHITRE

comedy

DOMESTALIS ALLIE MINEZ HEND

MANA COURT ATTE SERVED

MEEL HIPS CAMPER
Tim Clark MCs for Dylan Monsu, Jim Tavere,
Alan Parker Urban Warrier, The Trany
Brothers, Tudght 7:15pm, Clark
Farm Rd. (0771-724-736) ⊕ Canden Town, early IR, cones IA, late I 10, cones I7.

classical

London BURECON MIL.

R Patricipus Philipuspoig/Fundatumer Tehnillowsky
Symphonics, Nos. 1 and 4. Sun 4pm. £10-£30.

150/Michae Suravinsky's Deurhaense Cake,
Beethoven's Triple Concerto and the workl
premiere of Manwell Davies' There Kings. Sun
7.30pm. £6-£30. Benjolen Centre, EC2 (017)638 8891)

Moorgate/Burbican.

to the Account of the

March Projects Leader/Sarats Xenakia, Scolai. Kondo and Karen Tanaka. Sun Sprn. 17, cones 25. The Mail, (0171-930 3647) — Char X.

PRESEL ROUM
The Fature Seaso of England See Critic's Choice.
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1, 2 & 2 15, cons ROSAL PESTAGE BALL London Pullbarmonic/Bartington Overtures from Glack, Boothoven and Worker with Berline's Syntalkonic Fondatapue, Sun 7 30pm, 45-220. South Bank Car, (1877) 460 (CAC) BRV-6 Waterlo

STORES
Heir Landon Orchastra Chrp Parcell's Concessure,
Handed's Dick Destinate und Laurence Hangle
Handed's Dick Destinate und Laurence Hangle
Handed's Dick Destinate und Laurence Hangle
Handle St. (1917–222 1061) & Westminster.



DANCE

LOUISE LEVENE Elizabeth Streb's New York company makes its British debut in Greenwich today with Ringside, a meaty slice of Streb's punishing choreography which seeks to discover the limits of human endurance by encouraging the dancers to hurl themselves headlong at the walls.

weather said. Heat Benefit of the said said by Mahier and Berg. Tonight 7.3 Upon. 10-114. Buttury Bearld American songs with settings by Richard Rockey Bennett. Sun 7pm. 6-112. Wigmore Street (0171-905 2141) ← Bond St.

opera Bristol

LONGON COLUMN

REPROBRIES REARY.
Which Resembly Process's
Language Transight 7.15 pm. £6-£41.50. St
Augustine's Parade (U.17-429 9444). London

bugish Entered Opera: Casi for hithe Mozart's comedy. Tunight 7pm, £8-£50. St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) ◆ Leicester \$q.

BATHLOPER, 10085.
The Royal Opera: Ballistian mentage Directed by Richard Jones and conducted by Bernard Harins. Today 4pm, £7-£1-40. Covern Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000) & Covern Garden. dance

London MARIE BRAIL ARTS CENTRE Mgcl Charactic The Second Coming Amalgamation of Renumerities, Original Sun and Hell Benz. Tomight 7.30pm. E9-E10, cracs £6. Chemies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270) & Goodge St.

STEEDWICK BUILD AGENCY State Bagaile See Critic's Choice. Tomoth Spen. 13, course 55. SE 10 (0181-293 9741) BR: Gracowick. BECCORRESPONDED COMMUNITY CONTROL SERVICES SERVICES COMMUNITY CONTROL SERVICES SERV

ZLERT THE LEGIS Gham Barge Conyang: Solma West African Inc. passis. Today 3pm & 7:30pm, Son 7:30pm, SS-231, concaramobile. Reselvery Avenue, EC1 (0171-275 8916/713 e010)-© Angel.

auctions

Cartille Rugby and other sporting memorabilia, Victoriana and collectables Wednesday (11am), Phillips, 9 Westgate Surect (01222-396453).

Institute: Quarterly sole of collectables - toys and models, railwayaza, militaria, tribal art, early newspapers and ephemera, and a large collection of cabinet-makers' and jointers' tools, Thursday (2001). Gregoslade Hunt Fine Art, Magdalene House, Church Square (0) 823-332525).

Russey: 350 lots of antique and modern British and foreign silver, Tuesday (11am). Rosssey Azetion Rooms (01794-513331).

Hasthester: Collection of William IV and early Victorian large aquatint fashion plates, books and prints, unframed botamical coloured lithographs, Tuesday (12 mon). Capes Ditm., 38 Charles Street (0161-272 1911).

Russie: Antiquarian and other printed books including widflowl and a first edition of Milne's The House at Pooh Corner. Wednesday (11am). Phillips, The Old House, Station Road (0)564-776151).

Stactions. 500 loss of antiques and jewellery, including payabrokers' turredeemed pledges, Tuesday (10am). Tony & Sons, 2 Lynwood Road (01254-691748).

Maissee Collectors' racing books, set of sa Saafiles busting scenes, stud bandbooks, veterinary tooks, farnisare, today (Ham). Mainstreet Trading, Mainstreet, St Boswells (01835-823978).

Countrywide
Andques Trade Gazetic (0171-930 4957).
Government Austion News (0171-353 730).

world's biggest with 3.500 indoor and outdoor stands - Monday-Tuesday at the Newart and Notes Showground (IACF 01636-702326).

Antique Porcelais and State, tomorrow. Postman Hotel, Portman Square, west London (KM Fairs 0171-794 3651).

Worcester Coronics at the Dyson Perriss Mas

Severn Street, Worcester, today and tomorrow (Wakefield Ceramics Fairs 01945-776691).

fairs

Cardiff
Pilp, Sarukin Jarvis Cocker's arch pop outlit, with South Loodon monganiths in support.
Cardiff University Park Place (01222-396C1)
Sun 7.30pen, phone for availability.

London
Black Stem, Kaiple: See Critic's Choice.
The Forum Highestic Road NWS (0171-344
4044cc 344 0043) 9/BR: Kentish Town. Tonight 7pm, phone for availability.

Belie Lee leuts Accustic show. London Palindium Argyll Street W1 (0171-494 5020/5038)

© Oxford Circus. Sun 7.40pm, £12.50-£15.

jazz, world. folk etc

London

Epicia Telemaga, John Russell, High Budes Avast-garde action. Mopornous at The Real Rose Seven Sisters Rd (0171-263 7265) & Finabury Seven Sisters Rd (0171-263 7265) & Finishury Park. Sun Spin, guests £1.50, cones £2.50. When Maps with Build Benghine Estling, Bishert Haustone Amhvent Bround sculptures. Parcell Room South Bunk Centre (0171-962 £242) BRO Waterloot. Tottight 7.30pm, £7, cones £5. Into Bassa Brazillan auteur fusing Brazillan rhytums with bebop, Queen £Rabeto Haul South Bank Centre \$E1 (0171-960 4242) BRO Waterloot. Tourght 7.45pm, £7.50.£16.

literature <u>Cheltenham</u>

N Wilson Talking about and reading his latest novel, Hearing Voices. Town Hall Importal Square (01242-227979). Today 5-30pm, 15. Idrian Mitchell One of Britain's most profife writers of poetry and prose reads from a var-ety of his work. Town Hall Imperial Square (01343-227979), Today 5.30pm, £5. Fay Weldan The popular novelist talks about focusing on marrial collapse in her two most recent covers, Afficiation and Spilining. Evopman Theorie Regent Street (01242-572573). Today Ipm. 17, copes £3.

events

Light unit flarenthy Seath Edilabine Visual, suctio and sen-sual celebration of the world of performe. National Misseum & Gallery Cathays Park (01222-397951). Ture-Sax 10am-Spm, Sen 2.30pm-5pm, ends 12 Nov. £3.

Hannoth Edinburgh (Informs and Coffectors, next Saturday and Sunday [mem 21, 22 oct] at the Royal Highland Centre, Ingleston (Four m One 01455-233495). Landon Hardin Ory, Caldran's Shot Puppet show for chidren of all ages.

BAC Lavender Hill SW11 (0171-223 2223)

BR: Chaptan Justicou, Today 2,30pm, £3, cures £1.50, family £10. Designs Perk Autiques and Collectors at the Exhibition Centre, today and tomorrow (Four in One 01455-233495). Leadersh Adiques at Periopsia Chesford Grange Hotel, Wednesday-Sonday (Tanice cones (I.-St), family £10. The 5th Lundon Federgraph Fair Modern and Vic-torian prins, books and landscapes. Bossergion Hotel Southampson Row (0171-SC 2023) & Holborn, Sun 1 Lem-Spen, £1. 342 2423) O Holborn, Sun I Lam-Spei, EL.
Cashin Cast Fair Collection of glass, silver, firmiimpe, ceramics, fashints accessories and jourdiery.
Citation Old Town Hall King'n Road SW3
(0171-352 3619) O Stoane Soguer. The Satt
Rean-Spein, San Han-Spein, ands 22 Oct. 25.
Star Tesk - The Exhibition Models and memorabilian for thrift-secking, Trekkies,
Science Macour Publishion Rtl (0771-938 8000)
O South Kemington, Mon-Sat Uhan-Spein, Sun
Hann-Spein, code 35 Feb, 84.95, comes £2.95,

Cheshir County Infigure three-day at Arley H.M., near Knutsford, ends tomorrow (Cooper Antiques Pairs 01239-661111). Ephaneta Society Bazzar, Victory Services

church services

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

CARTERISMY CATROCHEM: Aum 14C. 9.30 am Motims. 11 am Sung Euscharus, Marca salve interacreta (Tallis). The Dean; 2.15 pm 140 li Boptima, 1,15 pm 140 revenug. St John 3 service (Headine); 6.30 pm 10 gm Recital for Nog Falsim.

Volta (Marstell: Suns, 8.45 cm 14C. (Dans Sung Encharist, Codegum to gale (Howells), Cannon Edward Northern; 11.30 pm Martins, Noble in Bambor, Apat Evenoug, Harwood to A Sus, Canno F.G.S. Harrach.

11 SOUR MARIAN, SOURCE BY Bristory, Just Bromsong, Harwood in A Bat, Comes P. CS. Harmson.

ST PARA'S GETTERBERE: Sum HC. Aufsem Mattens; H. and
Song Euscharret, Missa brevis (Bertacles). The Ven
Genipe Casolike, J. Spon Evensung, Darke an F. The
Res Nicholas Wymar-Jones, S. Liftun Organ Rectal In,
Mark Wandel.

WESTERBERE: Missale: Sum HC, 10am Massen, Street
service: Bynd, The Res Prederick; Beacharet; H. Liftun
Abbey Ecchanists, Massa brevs in D. (Mattan). The ResJountain Conclud. Sym Eveneric, Stanford in C. Camer
Anthony; Harney; S. Sym Organ Rectal In, Jerney
Alley & Sylom Eccentip Service. Camer Donald Gray,
Mark Marian, Marian Concluded Sym Exchanists, Massaches
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Campil Suppil, Sa Janney, Praiser: A. Donne HC, 11, 15 am Morning Prover, The Rev ER. Ayeris.

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Eucharest H. Wim Farmly Eucharest from Song Erren-song
All Burler, Langham Piner, W. I.; Rum H.C. Hum, The Rev John Cooks, & Diym, The Rev Septjens Wonder, Chaina Ghid Chareth, Ohi Chareth Street, 1849-8 and H.C. Han Children's Server, Ham Maters, 44th Septjens, 12, Hyan H.C.; Open Evensong, Mr. J. Wagherston, Holy Thirtig, Bermapton Raskd, 54th "9 and H.C. The Rev Sandy Millar: Ham Informal Service, The Rev Stoots Dounthears Syam, 7, 20 pm Informal Service, The Rev Sandy Millar: Bully Millar, Prance Common Road, 54th; S. Diam En-chares, 11 am Cherul Englishers, The Rev Dr Martin Jornal. Junal. Budy Brishy, Shome Smoot, SW1: 8.45cm FtG. Harm Sung-Eurekerst, Mass for four source (19vd). The Rector Brishing the Budge, Hothern, EC1: 9.2cm Sung Mass. Harn Scheme Mans, Mans Survis (Berkeley). The Va-

R Betalyst's, Alderse, SCO HUMars Sung Eucharist. The Rev Elving Jones. The Rev Etnine Jones.

38 Initiet's, Flort Street, EC'+ Ham Chaval Mattine and Enchorial, Santon's ja A, Mini Jano Barmeser; A. Uppa Choral Ecteaning, When is F. Canno John Onion.

48 Collabort's, Philitanch Gostern, SWY, Rither HC, Ham Sang Enchanat, Durbe in E, The Per F; Bill.

5 Sing Enchanat, Durbe in E, The Per F; Bill.

18 Jang Solama Mass, Fr pair Rance;

18 Banguit, Biooto-bury, Ham Song Engharin; 6, Uppa Persona Parish. 30 hanguit, Hoombuy, 10am Sang Eughariut, 6. Mpm Burmag Proter.

31 binagi Proter.

32 binagi Protesta, Rhenburg, W. 12. Magri HC. 11am Sang Eughariut, Rhenburgs in 20 flat, 17am Sang Eughariut, 8. Jinamit, Piccarilli, 6. Sang HC. 11am Sang Eughariut, The Rev Donald Revery, 6. 45pm. Berning Protest. 81 Jinamit, Sanzer Gurdenb. W.2. Jam HC. M. Shan Sang Engharit, Miras and Ingain (Palestrust). The Rev

98 Wikon, tyen Choral Eveneray, Short service (Casa ann, St. James's, Mussuell Hill, N10: 9 Stam Morning Worstop, The Rev Alex Ruse; i Lan Morning Worstop, The Rev Alex Ruse; t. 30pm Excusing Praise; The Rev Paul 1978-----

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Sang Magas.

R. Blunk's, Repera's Park Roud, NWH San HC,

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Sodo

28 Columba's Church of Readland, Pour Street, SW1; Ham. The Rev John H. Mcfuthot; 0,30pm, The Rev W. Alexander Comm. Courn Equal Columb on Scothards, Revoll Street, WC2; 11.15um, 6,30pm, The Rev Stanley Hond.

Bur Lady of the Resumption, Warrack Street, W1: Sem. Ham been: 11 am Sung Lette Mine, blasse some nomane therefore, Cope, spon, spon, Mens. The Burlang, Britangson Rood, SW7: 7am. Sem. Stan, Ham Mans. 11 am Solvent Mans, Minas in illo tempore (Montherestig 12. 30pm Mans; 3.30pm Salcone Venera, Ave maris actis; (Cricket, Auflyan, 7pm Mans, Are maris actis; (Cricket, Auflyan, 7pm Mans, Re Bindsbedon's, Ch. Proce, ECC: 11 am Song Mans. The fand Singhard and Gue Ladis, Sababa Rood, SE20; 9.45am Rosary, Olata Tridentine Mass. Chairses Mathematic Church, King's Road, SW2: (Lan, tota, The Rev J.E. Davis and Mr Tom Wealbars. Mathematic Debbell Hall (Medicolis), SW1: (1) am HC. The Rev Dr Peter C Graves; 6.30pm, The Rev Dr Pe-ter C. Graves

Birembury Custed Septic Church, Stafferbury Avenue, W.C.: 19ma, The Rev De Rachard Burridge, 6.30pm, The Rev Barrae Hibbert. Staffer Strandbury, Society of Friends (Quadert), 52 St Marter & Lase, W.C.: 11mn Meeting for Westbin.

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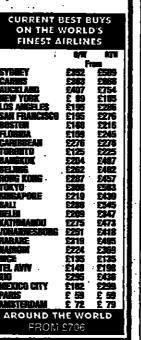
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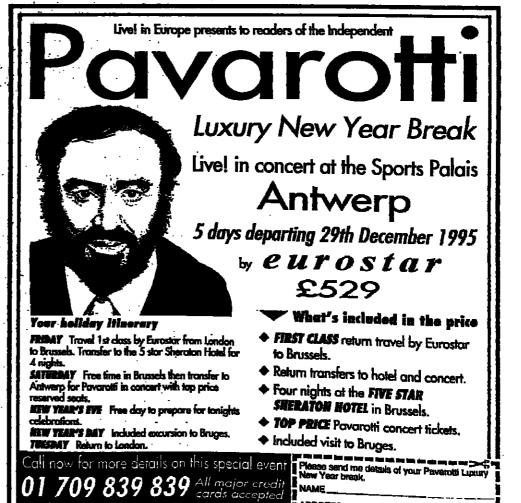
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travel half-term breaks

Welcome to the pleasure dome

Martin Scudamore thought Center Parcs were simply throwback holiday camps with bubbles on. But he shed his prejudices and took the plunge



t's a clear, dark night and you wade through the water chest-high. To one side you hear the screams of people plunging into a freezing pool, then the undertow seizes your legs and you start to float downstream. Feet first or head first, which is best? Too late to change your mind, you're swept under a bridge and round a corner. The water is lit from beneath, adding to the surreal effect as steam from the surface rises into the night air. Slipping and sliding, bumping off the smooth sides, hurtle down through the last few bends camp still to be a place where you are whether we would ever live down the able villa in a pine forest, with lakes and in a surge of foam. You're surrounded by bodies, eyes bright with excitement, according to the whim of the warders. ter Parc. Yet the concept, which origi-

everyone else, you rush through the tropical foliage straight up to the top to begin the whole descent over again. It's compulsive, and attracts people from six to 60 - but some of us will feel those bumps and bruises in the morn-

The rapids are probably the most exciting of the free attractions at Center Parcs. That weirdly spelled name, and the idea that this may be some appalling marriage of Disney with Butlins, puts some people off. We children billeted in a cell and allowed out only naff associations of staying at a Cen-

Where to go

Center Parcs has three holiday villages: Sherwood Forest, Elveden Forest and Longleat. Layouts differ, but the essentials are similar. Villas accommodate two to eight people and have central heating, twin bedrooms, well-equipped kitchen, jet-bath, TV and private patio. Gas, electricity and bed linen are included in the cost. Reservations: 01623 411411.

What it costs

Prices for self-catering vary enormously according to time of year. For example, the Scudamores have booked a villa for six at Elveden for the weekend at the end of the February half-term. The cost is £271, actually £1 less than the same weekend last year. But for the eekend at the beginning of half-term the price would be £371.

departure times, no cars at all - only bicycles.

Apart from anything else, the price is right – far cheaper than spending a long weekend on the Continent. And that double-glazed dome that rose UFO-like from Thetford Forest guaranteed us no rain. Prices can be as little as £15 per person per night, if you choose your dates carefully.

Half-a-mile from your villa, at most, is the pleasurable dome: a huge hemisphere hanging over a compendium of wave machine, slides, flumes, baby waterfowl around, and virtually all the pools, hot pools, freezing plunge pools, sports facilities you could ask for. jacuzzis, sun beds – and the rapids. The and you can feel a huge grin forcing Our misgivings were over-ruled by our nated in Holland, turned out to be far There are roads in the parks but, dome is maintained at a tropical tem-monopoly position. A itself on to your face. Along with children of the Eighties, who were des-from tacky. Think of it as living inde-except at previously set arrival and perature, an impression enhanced by night swims are free.

the fronds of succulent greenery trailing everywhere. Entry to all of this is included in the price of your holiday, so if you have young children and are content to sit and watch them play hap-pily in the water, the holiday needn't cost you any extra - apart from the occasional 90p for a giant ice-cream.

Away from the dome, there's a country club with snooker, fitness and weights room and aerobics classes. There's golf, archery, sailing, hockey and plenty more. The sport costs extra, of your holiday. But what you spend on sport, you save on self-catering: the onsite supermarket does not exploit its Our misgivings were over-ruled by our nated in Holland, turned out to be far There are roads in the parks but, dome is maintained at a tropical tem-monopoly position. And those late-

WHAT OTHER FAMILIES THOUGHT OF CENTER PARCS



As a fit middle-aged couple, we liked the way the place makes you feel young - but suffered afterwards from trying to do too much. The sporting and fitness activities were good; but it was a pain queuing to book them.



all the cars seemed to have bikes strapped on the back. The lack of traffic on the site is wonderful and it is good to be outside in the KAREN



The children swam and played all day - no arguments - and the dome became quite magical in the evening. It was dark and frosty outside, yet swimming through a hotwater pool under the stars made you feel as though you were miles away from Britain. OWEN (age 12)



It's brilliant. Swimming's the best thing you can do there, especially at night, but the changing rooms often get too crowded. The football training was fun as well. But it's best to take your own bike because the hire bikes are not so good.

BRYONY (age 10)



The swimming is excellent – even the rapids and pools outside are nice and warm. But the pony trekking was really boring: all we did was walk around a muddy field. My pony was tiny and kept sinking in the mud.

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FAMILY DEPARTURES

The newly-published third edition of Travel with Children by Maureen Wheeler (Lonely Planet, £6.95) is full of encouragement for the travelling parent, such as: "put your darlings in the care of a Balinese pembantu (nanny) - they know more magic than Mary Poppins". The extra challenges of travelling with children are covered, such as the nondependence on - and hence

ntlin's is trying to stretch Barbara Southcoast World theme park in Bognor Regis by opening of two "interactive flume rides". Terror Trip takes you through Dracula's Castle to the lost world of Hades, while Pinball turns you into a human trigger with prizes for the highest scores. Call 0345 700 700.

non-availability of - nappies in the developing world.

The National Trust has a Week of Christmas Walks from Boxing Day to New Year's Day. A list of activities can be obtained by sending an addressed envelope with a 29p stamp to: PO Box 59, Bromley, Kent BR1 3XL. A Family Walk to Celebrate the New Year is to be held on 1 January at 11am at Toller Porcorum, Dorchester. Call 01300 320684

I f your family has no family seat, you can always rent one. Scott's Castle Holidays (0131 226 7615) offers stately

homes in Scotland. Shooting,

fishing or just feeling smug are some activities on offer.

est Somerset Railway (01643 704996) is staging several family events between now and Christmas. Next weekend, Minehead station meets Thomas the Tank. "Santa

Specials" are running on the first, third and fourth weekends in December. Christmas specials are

(01535 645214) in West Yorkshire. New Year's Day is Family Day at the Embsay also being run by Kirklees Steam Railway (01756 Light Railway (01484 865727) and the Keighley 794727), near Skipton in North Yorkshire.

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How to get the kids skiing and still have

The Channel Tunnel means easier access to the pistes. Christian Wolmar and his family put the London to Les Arcs connection to the test

to get to the Alps. The opening of the Channel Tunnel with fast trains direct to Lille and Paris offers a potentially relaxing and easy way to get to the slopes, especially as many resorts are within a short bus or taxi ride from the little stations along the line from Chambéry to Bourg

We have been to Les Arcs for several years running partly because it offers good skiing for all grades but mainly because the ski school for the children has proved really excellent. The resort is just nine miles up a few hairpin bends from Bourg St Maurice, the terminus of the train through the Savoie: so letting the train take the strain seemed an obvious thing to do.

But strain there still was. Skiers were clearly not on the minds of those devising the initial train schedules through the tunnel last season. When I tried to book my family on the service from Lille to Bourg St Maurice, SNCF, the French railway company, told me that the first Eurostar train out of London missed the high speed TGV connection at Lille for a Lyon train by five minutes. They told me I would have to change in Paris, taking a taxi across town from the Gare du Nord to the Gare de Lyon to connect with the TGV service to Bourg St

That was the plan anyway. But TGV seats can only be booked two months in advance and on the appointed day all the seats on the Bourg train had already been sold. The reason was that people booking within France were allocated seats by the computer from midnight on the relevant day. SNCF in London could not access the computer until normal working hours, by which time all the seats had gone as we were travelling at the hectic pre-Easter weekend.

Back to the drawing board, we were booked on a Eurostar leaving London at 723am, then a TGV from Paris to Chambery, and then a slow local to Bourg. The journey was scheduled to take 12 hours and indeed it did. All three trains were comfortable, though the first two were crowded, and the children, even the five-year-old, really enjoyed the journey as well as catching up on their sleep. A 150F (£20) 20-minute taxi ride and we were in our apartment

Travelling across Paris, though diffi-cult because skiing trips necessarily entail lots of luggage, did give us a break and a couple of hours in one of Europe's great cities. But the basele of dumning great cities. But the hassle of dumping our luggage in amazingly expensive lockers (70F, or just over £9) and the diffi-culty of finding a good cheap restaurant near the Gare du Lyon means that on balance, next time we would avoid Paris.

We stayed two weeks in Les Arcs 1800 which last Easter had more snow than anyone could remember for the spring. Pretty it ain't, but our apartment virtually gave out on to the slopes, dispensing with those early morning, problem-atic walks with skis, a big bonus when you've got a five-year-old in tow.

The ski school lived up to expectation and the two eldest children both earned bronze chamois in the ski races so beloved of the French. The little one, Misha, easily passed her one-star test and progressed to the two-star class though she just failed the eventual test. The French are not sentimental about these matters: if you are not good enough, you fail even if you are only five. However, taking her on the slopes for two weeks

despite a bout of chicken pox which

kept her off skis for a few afternoons, even though she insisted on skiing in the mornings - meant that by the end of the holiday she had really cracked skiing, dancing down the bumps on the reds.

Five is an excellent age to do this. Misha is a toughy and enjoyed skiing at four - and even at three. As one ski teacher put it: "they learn in a day at four what takes a week at three". But at five she had the balance and the physical courage to enjoy it thoroughly, picking herself up from the falls without complaint. She is now a real skier.

The skiing in the resort is really exten-

sive, with plenty of pleasant reds and no shortage of blacks. Certainly, there were lots of different runs for me and my two eldest, who now swoop down the black runs with confidence. However, there is

runs with confidence. However, there is no really challenging black run, and the most difficult face is from the top of Aiguille Rouge, which is often closed.

The return journey was equally smooth: even though it was pouring with rain in Chambéry when we had to change and the platform had no roof. There were potentially chaotic scenes as There were potentially chaotic scenes as hundreds of people, many with skis, piled on to the TGV train but French stations cleverly have little diagrams to show exactly where each carriage will be when the train arrives. Once inside the train, the journey was wonderfully relaxing and in Paris we even had time to pop up to Montmartre for that impressive view of

Overall there is no doubt that the train wins out compared with the nightmares of either driving for 12 hours or the hassles of those ghastly early morning flights. The ensuing four-hour transfers are often made longer by ski companies who don't seem to realise that if they hurried up, you could get an extra half day's

But with such scanty schedules and poor connections, SNCF and Eurostar are going to have to try a lot harder before they attract all but the real rail enthusiasts to what is the best way of travelling to the Alps.



Photographs: Ski Shoot/Offshoot

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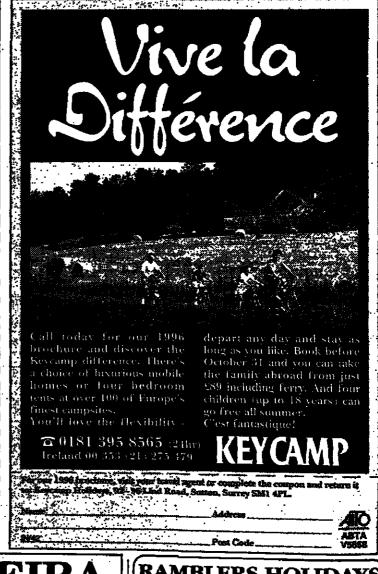






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Teaching children to ski is serious stuff. Chris Gill on the seven ages of learning

the Austrian instructor and I watched my nephew Nick conducting his way down a serious mogul slope with enviable speed, control, balance and style. "The boy's good," he said. "Really good. Not many Austrian kids can ski like that." I knew it perfectly well, but now it was official: the child I took to the Soll nursery slopes with his parents a decade ago is not simply a competent skier, but an expert - a better skier, I'm sure, than I will ever be. Damn.

So one of my young skiing compan-ions has reached the final stage of skiing development. If that development can be broken down into seven ages, he has reached the seventh. Happily, my own children have a little way to go. Last winter, at the age of six and three-quarters. Alex really started sking: in the course of a week's half-day sessions with my wife and me, he learnt to ski long green runs, obliterating the memory of two years before, when the Ecole du Ski Français kindergarten at Val d'Isère made a comprehensive attempt to put him off skiing for life. Meanwhile Laura, aged three-and-a-half years old, did some parentally guided sliding on skis, but preferred sledging and demolishing snowmen. I reckon that puts them (last year) in the fourth and second ages.

Here is a quick guide to all seven, and what they mean in terms of childcare. Or, perhaps I should say, what they have meant to my family: as comparing notes with other parents, I find that learning to ski goes differently in every family.

Babes in arms You can leave them with anyone who can attend to their immediate needs, which includes toothless Tyrolean grannies who don't speak a word of English. Resort nurseries are well worth looking into, although it's less stressful to hand over your precious bundle to a trained British nanny employed by your tour operator.

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Toddlers You can put them on skis, but what's the point unless they're going to get regular opportunities to repeat the experience? You can entrust them to an English-speaking nursery, or even consider leaving them at home with Granny or namey - but, if you're as soft as my wife and I, you'll be missing them badly by the end of the week.

Infants If they take to it, they can have fun on skis, zooming around your resort's "snow garden" and learning to ski in the process, and I wouldn't want to put you off taking that route. But if your child lacks resilience, you may take the view that-having fun (indoors and out) with other British children in the care of a tour-operator namy is a more attractive option.

Juniors Our experience has supported the view that once-a-year child skiers are most likely to make good progress once they are used to applying themselves to a discipline at about the age of seven. Crunch decision: do you teach them yourself - in which case all you need is nursery slopes and easy runs - or hand them over to a ski school? Pass.

Improvers Once the child has found his skiing feet it really is time to hand him over to the professionals in the ski school. Obvious considerations: good spoken English, small classes, suitably non-threatening terrain, lunchtime care. Less obvious, but equally important, are the arrangements for getting the children to and from classes. Tour operators can be very helpful here.

Real skiers The child can join in your explorations of the Trois Vallées. Great fun but don't drop the ski-school lessons altogether: maybe you could share a private instructor for the occasional day?

Experts Once he skis faster, steeper, deeper than you do, the main consideration is probably the availability of black runs immediately above a restaurant terrace, where you can watch in comfort.

Six of the best family operators

or many British parents who don't want to spend their entire ski holiday with the children, the best arrangement is to go with a British tour operator that lays on childcare. The possibilities range from the provision of a nanny to organised "clubs", which provide entertaining group activities, especially for older children. There are now dozens of operators who provide childcare in at least some of their resorts. Here we look mainly at smaller operators of catered chalets selling direct.

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Simply Ski This increasingly impressive chalet operator concentrates its childcare in two resorts: Montchavin and Courchevel 1300, 0181 742 2541

Ski Esprit This mid-sized chalet operator has

long been the leading exponent of the chalet holiday for families, and is constantly developing its services. Resorts include bigname macho places and lowaltitude charmers. 01252

Ski La Vie

A small, upmarket operator with creche facilities in its chalets in Champéry, Meribel and Zermatt. 0171

Six of the best family resorts

There's no such thing as a good resort for families - or a bad one, for that matter. Any resort is worth considering. How old are the kids? Do you or do you not plan to use the resort's childcare facilities? Which tour operators go there? Do you or do you not want the the children to be able to venture out into the village on their own? How good are they at skiing? How happy to go into ski school? What are they likely to want

to do when they're not skiing?

But there is such a thing as a resort that is more child-friendly than its rivals, and here I list some personal favourites. Practically all are traffic-free; none are American, on the simple grounds that they all seem to do childcare pretty well, and it's difficult to single out one or two.

Alpbach, Austria

Small, pretty, friendly old village with a long tradition of British visitors: nursery slopes are conveniently close



to hand, although the main ski area is a short bus ride away.

Montchavin, France

Cars are kept to the fringes of this charming old hamlet on the fringe of the La Plagne skiing; in the centre. nursery slopes merge with orchards and restaurant terraces. Ski Esprit and Simply Ski go here.

Saas Fee, Switzerland

A sort of Zermatt for families: snowy paths and wooden barns, but a happy absence of international glitz, and excellent gentle nursery slopes at village level. Cold in midwinter.

Serfaus, Austria

Affluent, traditional-style family resort where cars can't be moved around on an underground peoplemover. Excellent resort childcare

Valmorel, France

This French resort demonstrates that purpose-built doesn't have to mean brutally functional. Its pedestrian centre is built in dinky traditional style, with a road looping it to give car access to piste-side accommodation. And it has Saperlipopette: a comprehensive childcare and child tuition centre that is probably the best in the French Alps.

Wengen, Switzerland

An old British favourite, full of Victorian hotels and reached only by mountain railway, which is also the main lift up into the skiing. In the heart of the tiny village is a little nursery slope, ideal for those first steps on skis.

Six of the best family hotels

Latitudes. Several hotels in this threepart resort offer childcare. That at the Latitudes in Arc 1800 is not the most comprehensive (it starts at age 4), but it gets the best reports.

Davos, Switzerland

Berghotel Schatzalp. A funicular takes you up to is comprehensively equipped four-star on the treeline, 300m above towny Dayos Platz, It

has its own nursery slope and crèche, and is the start of the local toboggan run.

Les Lindars. The heart of this dreary-looking, purpose-built resort is a pedestrian-only square that leads directly on to the nursery slopes. The hotel Les Lindars, just above it, has famously good childcare for residents.

Obergurgi, Austria

Alpina. Although it seems an excellent family destination, Obergurgl does not have notably good childcare arrangements. The in-house nursery of the smart Alpina makes good the

Oberlech, Austria

Sonnenburg. This luxurious chalet with a very impressive in-house nursery is right on the piste in the

fairly peaceful mountain outpost of Oberlech, a mere cable-car ride or short drive above fashionable Lech.

Zermatt, Switzerland

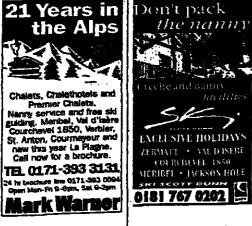
Ginabelle. There is no public nursery slope at village level in this attractive resort, but the luxurious and friendly Ginabelle has its own little slope (and instructors) as well as an inhouse nursery.

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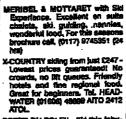
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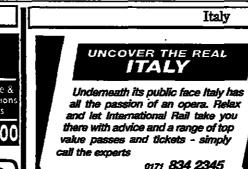




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A castaway among the humming birds, goats and lobsters

Jamie Ross follows the trail of the real Robinson Crusoe in Chile

n Chile, geography dictates that you can go either north or south. I went west. Someone heading in this direction usually has sights set on Easter Island, a mid-Pacific, five-hour hop from Santiago.

However, often overlooked by those poring over their atlases, bemused by the country's extraordinary shape, is a small archipelago, called Juan Fernandez, 700 kilometres west of

Here is Robinson Crusoe Island. It is not a theme park nor an old Disney set, but a National Park and home to a host of plants and humming birds. There are about six hundred people, too, most of whom are dependent for a living, one way on another, on lobsters.

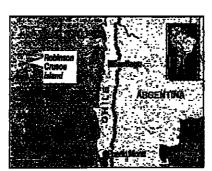
The real Robinson Crusoe and rolemodel for Daniel Defoe, the castaway's creator, was the early 18th-century seafarer Alexander Selkirk, a native of Largo in Fife. History relates that in 1704, while serving on an exploratory mission in the Pacific, Selkirk became embroiled in a quarrel with his captain. As a means of terminating both argument and acquaintance, Selkirk made what turned out to be a rash move. He requested to be put ashore on the uninhabited island of Mas a Tierra. Evidently he assumed rescue would be imminent, but he had to wait four years and four months be-

fore being picked up.

During his stay on the island Selkirk chased, befriended, are and clothed himself in wild goat. Upon finally being rescued by the Duke, a privateer, he was

Aerial navigation to Robinson Crusoe Island is straightforward: from Valparaiso head into the setting sun. Approaching, banking round its cliff faces, you shudder at the enormity of what the island represents. It is the peak of an oceanic mountain range, possibly of Andean scale, just breaking the ocean's sur-

A six-seater Cessna is about as big a



plane as the island's earth strip can accommodate. The wind-buffeted landing feels distinctly tight. My fellow passengers were all zoologists. Large seat populations (much depleted since Selkirk) attract students from afar. By a windswept shack, amid improbable swathes of red poppies, other regular users of the air service were waiting in boxes: live lobsters bound for the markets of Valparaiso and Santiago.

There are no proper roads and few, if any, vehicles on Robinson Crusoe. For reasons of topography, the sole town, San Juan Bautista, is situated at the other end of the 12-mile island from the airstrip. The only way to get there is by boat, and the island's fishermen provide the taxi

San Juan is green. Trees, foliage and flowers appear to have the upper hand in the town's development. Large, white lilies grow down the centres of grass streets. Here and there tethered goats keep things in check. Buildings are modest, wooden and one storey. National Park rangers wander around on horse-

The effects of isolation on life, which adapts, fills niches and evolves, are more apparent on an island than on mainland. Hence huge tortoises on the Galapagos. And on Robinson Crusoe, golden humming birds and 57 endemic plant species, 31 of which are "endangered" and 16 "vulnerable" as a result of man, goat and immigrant mainland species.



The northern winter corresponds with the southern summer, so the best time to go is between now and March.

How to get there

The only airline with direct

services from the UK to the Chilean capital Santiago is British Airways (0345 222111), and the lowest official fare is £879. Lower fares are available through discount agents such as Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108), which sells BA tickets for £626, or flights via Caracas on Viasa for £588. At Santiago you have to transfer from the international to the domestic airport in the suburb of Cerrillos for the air-taxi flight to the island. Contact Lassa (00 56 2 273 4309) which has scheduled flights in January and February, costing \$375 (about £250) per person round-trip. For the rest of the year, Lassa operates an air charter service – five people staying for three days would pay \$2,000 (about £1,350) in total.

I stayed at one of the San Juan's central guest houses, owned by the Green family. On arrival at Villa Green, travel-weary guests are greeted with a large plate of lobster, accompanied by a glass of white wine. Señor Green's father came from Glasgow before the war and settled on Crusoe. And his son, Robinson, was my guide.

On Crusoe you almost feel obliged to explore. Selkirk's cave is still there. But forget the notion of palm trees and the bleached white sands of Defoe's Caribbean fiction. Robinson Crusoe is a temperate island. Selkirk may even have felt at home with the vista of grey boulders and shingle.

The focal point of the Robinson Cru-



soe story and a place of pilgrimage for any castaway spotter is Selkirk's look-out place. From San Juan, where Selkirk established himself, a well-beaten path winds its way up to a practically sheer mountain face. At the top you find yourself in a cleft two-thirds of the way up the island's highest peak. From here, both ends of the island are just about vis-

ible. And a lot of sea. Unexpectedly, you find two tablets embedded into the rock up here. One, large

and of iron, is a tribute from a Commodore Poweli and crew of HMS Topaze, cast in Valparaiso in 1868 and lugged up from the shore line. The other is small, of polished grants, a memorial evidently brought from Scotland in 1983 by a descendant of Selkirk's brother. It is inscribed with some lines of Robbie Burns that curiously seem to resonate with the spirit of the place: "till a' the seas gang dry and the rocks melt in the

SOLO **DEPARTURES**

nyone planning to take advantage of a standby airpass will find the chances of getting on hoard much higher when travelling solo. The latest North American airpass, being marketed in the UK by AirPass Sales (01737 555300). covers the ground from Calgary to San Francisco and Vancouver to Idaho Falls. This unlimited travel pass is offered by the US regional airline. Horizon Air. It allows as many journeys as you wish in a week for £175, or three weeks for £298, travelling on a space-available basis. The carrier has a dense network of flights around the north-western US, spreading into south-western Canada. To get started on the pass, Flightbookers (0171-757 2000) has a range of twocentre trips for around £330, combining New York or Chicago with San Francisco where you can pick up the standby trail.

The ideal adjunct for the lone traveller is membership of Hostelling International, offering low-cost accommodation around the world. Join the appropriate organisation: contact the YHA for England and Wales on 01727 855215; the Scottish YHA on 01786 451181; or the YHA for Northern Ireland on 01232 324733.

David Hempleman-Adams. who was the first person to walk solo to the north magnetic pole, is running a group expedition taking "eight ordinary Britons" to the magnetic pole in April/May 1996. This involves a 300-mile walk from Resolute Bay in Canada's North West Territories The cost per person is £15,000, and applicants will undergo a full medical (including psychological) assessment before selection. Call 01793 823741 for further.



something

Bargain of the week

Madrid, Milan and Munich are each around two hours' flying time from London, which normally puts them in the £150-plus bracket for return fares. But if you book by 9.30pm today, Air UK (0345 666777) is selling return tickets to each destination for £99 plus tax. You have to travel from Stansted in the next two months, and must stay away a Saturday night. Flights to Copenhagen, Nice and Zurich are also available.

Visitors' book Crystal Palace Museum, London

"I went into the palace every day in the 1930s." - Grace Wilson, London

"It must have been grand..." – Don Payjack, Phoenix, Arizona

"It's a pity that many people don't visit this place any more." – Chiaki Yokoyama, Tokyo

"I was taken to the top of Shooters Hill by my father to see a big fire in the distance. I was six years old."

— Mr Heddle, Plumstead

"Why don't we reconstruct it for the Millenium?"

True or false?

All business travellers are male

True, at least according to the latest advertisement for the Guy Salmon Chauffeur Service. The service, which takes you from central London to Heathrow airport for £39.

has been "welcomed by businessmen at every level".

Presumably the expansive backsides of these very executives will be filling the wide seats on British Airways Club Europe: the airline targets the male traveller with the line "Behind every successful businessman there's a comfy seat".

At least some government departments are having second thoughts: a series of travel guides called Hints for Businessmen has been modified to Hints for

A likely story

Two weeks from only £349, car rental included" - Airtours Florida brochure, Summer '96.

Airtours has used a combination of innovation, aggressive marketing and sheer good value to progress from almost nowhere to become Britain's second-largest tour operator. No surprise, then, that the front cover of the Lancashire-based tour operator's Florida brochure should offer a flydrive holiday in Florida for less than £700 for a couple.

The company has developed a keen eye for keeping costs down, including switching this year to Orlando's second airport, Sanford, where landing fees are lower.

To the passenger picking up his or her rental car, arriving in Sanford is very convenient since the hire companies are based on site. In under an hour from landing, you can set off on your inclusive holiday in which the only extra you

expect to pay is for fuel.
You turn to page 21 as instructed and see you have to leave for Florida in the first two weeks in May, straddling the bank holiday. Fine. Here is my cheque, and all I need do now is

pay for petrol. Or is it? The small print warns of "additional local charges from Dollar", the car hire company. These turn out to be a baffling series of extras, covering (take a deep breath):

1. Loss or damage waiver: the sort of basic insurance you might

assume comes with any : rental car. If you don't pay your \$14,99 a day, you won't be allowed to drive away unless you can produce a credit card with at least \$1,500 of spare credit and agree to be responsible for the total cost of the car

in the event of an accident. 2. Supplemental liability insurance: the basic thirdparty cover is limited to just \$10,000, the going rate these days in the American courts for a broken fingernail let alone anything more damaging, so Airtours recommends this insurance, too, costing \$10.99 a day.

3. The airport access fee of \$3 a day. 4. A "handling fee" also of \$3 a day.

5. Florida's state surcharge of \$2.05 per day. 6. Tax of 6.5 per cent on all the above.

7. Airport road tells of \$3 each way. The Airtours "free car rental" thereby costs £320, without taking into account little extras such as fuel,

insurance for a second driver (£47) and a surcharge for a driver aged 21-24 (£121). A cyrtic would suggest that the only "free" thing about free car rental offers is that Dollar provides the

cars to Airtours for free, in return for the right to levy

all manner of fees on the hapless holidaymaker. Alternatively, you could just buy an Amtrack rail pass for the eastern part of North America, costing \$179 (about £116) for 15 days' train travel, reaching as far north as Montreal and as far west as New

Orleans ...

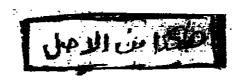




If you're a boarder then Ski Thomson can offer you 18 resorts this winter. And it you're a first timer Ski Thomson have Learn to Snowboard packages which include snow boarding kit and three half days of pro instruction. See the Ski Thomson brochure for more details.

CAN JUMP A PICNIC TABLE

IS KING.





First, get a decent script

Simon Calder makes a video postcard in Weymouth

o you want to be a video star? Just turn up on the scafront at Weymouth any day, and take the lead role in a video postcard to your

Like all good ideas, this one is simple. Weymouth tourist information centre has borrowed a video camera and recorder, and set it up on the promenade in the Dorset resort. Holidaymakers pay £3.95, then preen themselves while Andy White, a professional photographer, sets up the studioquality camera and starts it rolling. When I turned up with my £3.95, one of the staff diplomati-cally asked "Are you sure you want to record one in this weather?" The steely waters in the Channel were reflecting the increasingly murky clouds massing in the east: a typical autumn day at the British seaside. "Yes, please".

than the weather was what I had failed to grasp: that the whole experience takes place in full view of fellow tourists. So here's a tip: before you start addressing your mum, pals, lover or colleagues: get a decent script.

Though unprepared to speak, I had prepared a prop - cod and chips. While battling to keep the microphone and hinch apart, I stumbled through a "Weather terrible as you can see, bet you're glad you're not here" routine. Curious passers by wandered in and out of shot. No one actually beckled, but their faces clearly asked "What is this fool doing?". When your two minutes of infamy are over, Andy White makes a gesture like someone cutting your throat, and stops the machine.

Your ritual humiliation is not yet over, though. The resulting what may put you off more ately on TV monitors in the

tourist office, "to make sure it's recorded all right".

Postage (first class 77p) is not included in the price of the videos, on the grounds that some people will want to post them abroad and others just take them home. At under £4 a time, Weymouth is not going to make a fortime out of the deal. But the pay-off, as far as Weymouth is concerned, is that the recipient of your despatch has to sit through a 15-minute film extolling the virtues of the resort.

promotional video for some time, but discounted the idea because of the cost and the fact that no one ever watches them," says Harvey Bailey of Weymouth & Portland Borough Council. "Then a couple of independent producers made films about the Cutty Sark and VE Day, and we used the material they'd shot to compile our video."

When Mr Bailey addressed the

"We'd been looking at doing a

two-minute space at the end for the sender's personal message. To get to the juicy (or, in my case, plain messy) bit, you watch an introduction to the resort where King George III began the fash-

thornier problem of how to per-

suade people to watch the thing,

he came up with the idea of the

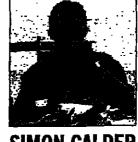
video postcard - having a blank

ion for sea bathing in 1789. The video postcard is already spreading. Helen Caldwell, who runs the Independent Travellers World exhibitions, is planning to import the idea for her travel fairs in Bristol, London and Edinburgh

next year. "We won't be needing the Weymouth promotional video we're hoping to experiment with colour-separation overlays to give people a choice of backgrounds. . This sounds like the hi-tech equivalent of putting your head through a cardboard mock-up of Charles and Di. Should you be tempted to take up the opportunity, remember not to wear blue. Otherwise you could find the Serengeti projected where your shirt should be, destroying the whole illusion of television. And

start rehearsing that script right now.

Simon Calder



SIMON CALDER

when the most obvious hop, but I was tempted away from the breezy British coast by a cut-price deal. The Hilton chain is not usually within my budget (on most of my trips, the letter 's' is inserted midway through the word hotel), but the Prague branch had a special offer.

I called Hilton International reservations (0345 581595) outside working hours and was automatically transferred to the company's headquarters in Dallas, Texas. The staff are helpful but their grasp of geography is not what it could be. I enquired about

their hotel in the Czech capital and was asked "Is that Prague in England?". On checking in at the

Hilton in Prague, Czech Republic, my problems really began. The room allocated to me turned out to be already occupied by a Japanese couple, and my arrival there was a big surprise to them. So was the response when I borrowed their phone to explain our mutual plight to the front desk: "I'm sorry", the receptionist said. "It's too late in the evening for us to do anything about that." Only after turning up at the front desk with all my luggage, plus Mr and Mrs Tsutaki's hotel card indicating their entitlement to occupy the room undisturbed, was I allocated

another room. Once settled, my eye fell on the hotel's publicity literature. According to the blurb, Hillary Clinton, Nelson Mandela and Jimmy Connors have all stayed at the Prague Hilton; nowhere is it clear if they had to

share the same room.

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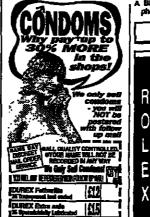
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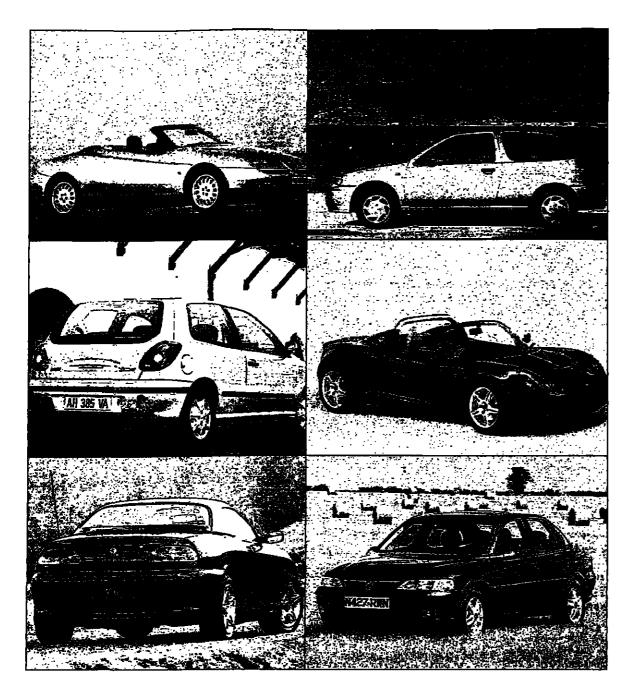
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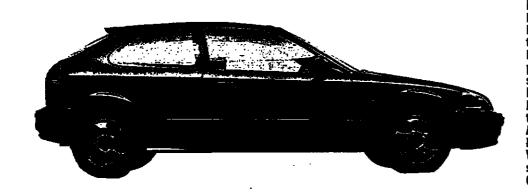
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Drive past the Hondas and the Nissans and head for the Rover, Fiat and Alpha Romeo stands

Gavin Green's guide to the London Motor Show

the naff poster campaign, complete with drape, to persuade so before UK sales start. They look Quite apart from being a hoary old mentality that was supposed to have ended in the caring-sharing Nineties, it also runs contrary to most car-makers' marketing efforts. Cars as sex substitutes are passé; cars are supposed to be all green and cuddly and protective

right now.
It's also a throwback to the old Earls Court show days, back in the Sixties, when it was one of the world's most important, and when sexy new models (girls not cars) really did get their kit off rather a lot. Back then, the British motor industry was one of the world's biggest and most innovative before Brownitted hari-kiri and the leasures makers turned us into a the Japanese makers turned us into a low-cost assembler of their cars.

But there are signs of revival, and it's one of the reasons why this year's Earls Court show promises to be an unusually good one. For starters, the British motor industry is getting bigger and bolder, and Earls Court is riding along in its tyre tracks. Foreign car bosses who usually give London a miss are coming this year, and they're bringing interpretations of the properties of t important new cars with them.

Plus: the nation's car-maker has actually got something to crow about. Rover is giving the MGF its British debut, and it's not only the most dramatic-looking Rover in goodness-knows-how long (since the SDI Rover of 1976 perhaps?), but it's also a car that, in certain areas, has genuinely progressed the art of automotive engi-

This year's show will end up taking quite a sports car theme. Making their British debuts are Fiat's Barchetta

punters to visit Earls Court this Thurs- even more daring and eye-catching day and for the 10 days thereafter. than the MG, even if their engineering

> Little Lotus, whose fate is uncertain following the financial problems plaguing Italian parent Bugatti (but when was Lotus's future ever secure?), is giving its new Elise sports car its UK premiere. This is a much more uncompromising sports car: as much street racer as cafe cruiser. As with the MG - whose Rover engine it shares - the Elise is studded with innovative engineering, proof of Britain's re-emergence as a nerve centre for innovative

sports car engineering.

At the mass-manufacturing end of the scale, the Earls Court halls will be filled with new models: Vauxhall unveils its new Vectra, successor to that symbol of the fast-lane fleet rep, the Cavalier, and Ford takes the wraps off a new Fiesta (reviewed below). The Fiesta is another fish-faced and rather gawky-looking new Ford, following on from the hideous Scorpio; the Vectra

just looks plain duli. Better by far to head for the Fiat and Renault stands where a couple of genuine big-volume head-turners are being previewed. The Fiat Brava/Bravo -Brava's the five-door, Bravo's the three-door -- is one of the most unusually-styled and detailed Escort-class car ever. It goes on sale here in a couple

Renault unveils the even-prettier, but less imaginative, Megane, another stunner from the pen of its Anglo-French design chief Patrick Le Que-ment. It replaces the worthy but non-descript R19, and is on sale here from

Back in the dull corner, keeping the

Civic and the Nissan Almera. You wouldn't expect any great shakes from Nissan and, in the new Almera, you don't get them. It's a boring little Escort-sized hatch, utterly bland, no doubt faithful, no doubt reliable, and no doubt about to be ignored at Earls Court. This is a new car that will like the quiet family life before gently retir-ing to the minicab circuit, like its predecessor the Sunny.

The new Mercedes E-class, successor to the biggest-selling model in Mercedes' history, makes its UK debut, too. The old version was much-loved by executives who liked the idea of driving behind a Mercedes star, and, in estate form, by school-run mums who liked the idea of driving in front of probably the safest passenger cell in the world. The new one doesn't look as good, and there are worrying signs of Mercedes-Benz penny-pinching, espe-cially in some of the cabin fittings. It's

still a great car, though. There's a special motor sport day (26 October), a classic car day (24 October), the first public appearance of Richard Noble's latest world land speed record car, designed to break the sound barrier, and, if you've got the money to buy instead of just the capacity to dream, there are four classic car

Sexy new models? Well I suppose it depends what turns you on. The Earls Court show will never return to the old pulchritude and power days of the Sixties. But the London Motor Show has regained its credibility as one of the world's better car exhibitions.

> London Motor Show, Earls Court open from 19-29 October, 9.30am-7,30pm (9pm from 23-27, 6pm on the last day). Prices: £14 on 19 October, £9 on other days (£6 if entry after 5pm), children /OAPs £5.

road test

Ford Fiesta LX

With its pepped-up engine and interior, the revamped Fiesta has set new benchmarks for small cars. By Roger Bell

design. The popularity of the early Mk 2 Fiestas, launched in 1989, was down to sales muscle and that-will-do engineering, not technical superiority. As small, inexpensive Fords, they were bound to sell well, and no rival has outsold them in more than a decade.

How different the latest Dagenham-built Fiesta, which sets class benchmarks for refinement and comfort, if not for space. Its new 1242cc engine, developed with the help of the Japanese motorcycle giant Yamaha, lives up to Ford's promise as the smoothest and quietest in its class. Not all Fiestas will get it, though. In an unusual (and confusing) three-tier arrangement, midrange models get the new body but retain the old and inferior 1.3 motor, now called the Endura E. It costs less than the new Vetec SE engine, but is not so sweet or peppy. Pending the launch next year of its ultra-small city car, Ford will continue to make (in Spain) the old-shape Fiesta, known as the Fiesta Classic, to sustain its of its main rivals in a market sector that's dou- driver's airbag is standard.

Motor Services

ive years ago Ford's Fiesta was a duffer; a tri-foothold at the bottom end of the market. But bled in size in the last two decades.

There's no mistaking the chubby-cheeked newcomer, which is actually the old Fiesta in a smart new suit. Although the chassis and suspension have been extensively modified to improve crash safety, ride comfort, handling and noise suppression, they are basically evolutionary carry-overs. Not that you could tell from the all-new interior, which brings big-car attributes down to supermini level. The facia is particularly imposing - perhaps even a mite incongruous in its opulence at this lowly end of the market. Despite the test car's optional powered height/tilt adjuster that compromised the driving position, I found the Escort-style seats embracingly comfortable. The supple ride is a revelation, too.

The four trim/equipment packages - Encore, LX, Si and Ghia - cater for all tastes and pockets. Yet Ford seems unconcerned that the Fiesta, available with three doors or five, is less spacious than the Fiat Punto or VW Polo - two

engine gives sprightly performance - even more pep is promised from the alternative 90hp 1.4litre engine, due next year - while economy, not zap, is the 1.8 diesel's forte. I was impressed with both transmissions, too: the five-speed manual has a crisp and easy gear change (the linkage and synchromesh have been improved), and the CTX automatic is very smooth; the getaway jerkiness that once marred it has been resolved. Because the engine is so quiet, you are spared the monotonous drone that afflicts most small cars - the new engine is barely audible when cruising, even though wind whoosh and tyre roar is muted. Cars of this size come no quieter.

With power steering, standard on some models, extra on others, the new Fiesta is light to drive and numble with it. The options list also includes air conditioning, traction control, leather trim, seconds, average consumption 42.2mpg. and anti-lock brakes features expected on larger, more expensive cars but not on superminis. The



Specifications

Ford Flesta LX, around £8,900 Engine 1242cc, four cylinders, 16 valves, 74bhp at 5200rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox, frontwheel drive. Top speed 106mph, 0-60mph in 11.9

Rivals

Fiat Punto 75SX, £7,874 Arguably the most stylish supermini, certainly one of the roomiest and best packaged. Keenly priced, very good value. Rover 114 SLi, £8,195 The old Metro under a new name. Nice engine and gearbox, cramped and dated body. Rides and handles well.

VW Polo 1.3CL, £8,299 Stylish and well packaged, but 1.3 lacks pep and 1.6 costs more.

motoring

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SAAB

They're cheap, efficient and utterly bland

Jonathan Glancey has spent a year using hire cars without an inkling of driving pleasure

conomically, renting rather than buying a car might make sense – but it is any fun? Over the past year, I have had the opportunity, courtesy of Budget, Avis and Godfrey-Davis, to drive almost every variety of new Ford, Vauxhall and Nissan. Not one of them has offered even an inkling of driving pleasure. Some, like the Mondeo and Cavalier, sport helpful plastic coathooks over the back door in an unconvincing attempt to make up for this spoilsport character. All (save the modest Nissan Micra) boast speedometers that read up to Stirling Moss speeds as if encouraging drivers to put their foot down.

In the summer I needed to reat a car to drive to a friend's wedding in Oxfordshire. I collected a car, jumped in and drove off. Ninety minutes later, I parked it in a field with a crowd of others. When it came to offering fellow guests a lift back to London, however, I was unable to find it. The car I had driven earlier that day was so utterly bland that I had no idea what make it was. In the end, I knew it had to be the blue Fiat Punto because it was the only small car left in the field by the time most of the guests had gone.

This is not to say that the Fiat Punto is a bad car. Far from it. Like many small motors used by rent-a-car companies, it is competent, secure and a doddle to drive. Yet this was the first time I had driven a car without remembering what or in countries far away where such open the door.

it was. It was not, however, the first time I had driven a car and forgotten what it was like to drive. In fact, I have forgotten the character of virtually every car I have hired in the last year.

Admittedly, in years past, I have remembered rented cars for all the wrong reasons. It would be difficult to forget the Morris Marina 1.3L that not only had a tendency to skid on the most subtle bends in the road, but broke down in foul weather when the heater was switched on with the wipers and side lights on. "The alternator's packed up," said the man from the AA. "You shouldn't have switched everything on at once." Presumably experienced Marina owners had the knack of motoring in driving rain with the wipers parked to save putting an undue load

on the vehicle's feeble electrics. I remember, too, a Fiat Panda with bald tyres and occasional brakes in southern Italy (fun on the hairpins), a Moskvitch with a sticky throttle in a Moscow rainstorm, a Daihatsu jeep hopping with giant tree frogs in Cuba, and a 5-litre Chevvy Classic Caprice in Canada that spun on its lazy axis whenever it encountered snow - handy, as you can imagine, on the backroads of Ontario at Christmas.

But, all these were in another time the years of big, bad British Leyland -

gremlins must be expected in the course of a colourful holiday. Today's hire cars are uniformly, erm, uniform. You can jump from the driving seat of one to another without having to relearn the controls. Perhaps this is sensible, safe and efficient - but it is also very boring.

All the cars I have recently hired can be thrashed along at high speeds, all have the same rubbery gearshifts, smelly plastic mouldings and seat covers that look as if they have been pinched from a high street branch of a building society. All are a little ragged if pushed fast around corners, and none is happy on poorly made roads.

The only car of the 20 or so I have hired that has had anything like a decent engine and chassis (the Ford Mondeo V6) was let down by an interior so dull that it would make a Trust House Forte hotel room look like a set from The Cabinet of Dr Caligari.

I do not want to buy another car. Hiring is cheaper and it makes more sense than owning a car: no problems with parking, resident's permit, servicing, tax, insurance and so on. And yet the numbing blandness of hire cars could be enough to drive me back into the world of precise gears, characterful engines, aromatic leather, responsive steering. And no more of that all-pervading smell of lavatory freshener when you



Money

"Never before has there been a bull

> market with participation. This is not a good sign. God

happens when the chickens come home

The battle of wills between the bears and the bulls on Wall times earnings – which means the current rating can only Street gets more fascinating by the week. If one defining characteristic of a bull market is that it is able to shrug off bad news, then this weekend the bull market in New York - and with it the hopes of those who think the London stock market should follow it higher - must be diagnosed as being still very

much alive. On Tuesday last week, the US stock market wobbled badly in the morning, falling 50 points in barely an hour, led down by the same technology forbid what stocks that have led the market higher for most of the past 10 months.

It was enough to prompt renewed fears that this bull market is finally on its last legs, after a run that has carried it up by a good 25 per cent so far this year.

As I have noted here before, traditional valuation measures on Wall Street are already at their lowest levels for years. The dividend yield is at levels last seen before the 1929 and 1987 crashes. The market

last as long as profits keep ris-

ing strongly.

This will only happen if the economy continues to pick up sharply after its summer pause, This, to judge by the available evidence, is still probable - but the margin for error at the current market levels diminishes

No wonder Wall Street analysts are so frantically poring over the latest earnings figures for clues about the trend in profits growth.

Small wonder, too, that it should be earnings figures from a technology company, this time Motorola, that sent technology stocks and the market as a whole into its wobble last week.

The odds must be that it will be a profits warning from a big US company that finally prompts Wall Street's correction when it comes - that is, if it is not precipitated by an unexpected move by the Federal Reserve on interest rates

It would be astonishing if price/earnings multiple of 17. man of the Fed, was not now says. "This is not a good sign. The historical average is 13 becoming exercised by the God forbid what happens



INVESTMENTS

emerging signs of overheating on Wall Street.

It would matter less if other traditional warning signals were not also now flashing so heavily. The American private investor has never had so much money invested in mutual funds. Many fear that if markets do start to fall, there could be a panic as they all rush to unload their holdings.

Listen, for example, to Barton Biggs, Morgan Stanley's chief global strategist, and one of Wall Street's most respected thinkers. "Never before has there been a bull market with overall is selling on a Alan Greenspan, the chair- such broad participation," he

when the chickens come home

But just as the market was able to shrug off its last wobble back in July, when technology stocks were also at the centre of the action, so it seemed to have recovered most of its poise by the end of the week. And there are still plenty of highly paid Wall Street pundits who reckon that the market has higher to go still. Among them are wellknown market watchers in the US such as Abby Cohen of Goldman Sachs and Elaine Gazarelli, both of whom

for the next few months. The cause of the bulls can only have been heightened by news that Joe Glanville, a vaudeville character who commanded great influence over Wall Street in the early 1980s

expect better things, at least

with his loud and vigorous views on the direction of the market, is suddenly back on the scene arguing the opposite way. In the weekly stock market newspaper Barron's a fortnight ago, he said there is every chance of a 1929-style crash happening again - and it will happen "before the end of

of safe bets that what Joe

Glanville thinks is the exact opposite of what is going to appen. His record as a market pundit is unrivalled, but only for its inaccuracy. Studies of the performance of the thousands of stock market newsletters in the US in recent years demonstrate convincingly that his record is abysmal. Anybody who followed his advice would be seriously out of pocket by now. But, as in life, so in the stock

market. Every dog has his day, and maybe even Joe is about to strike lucky. One nerve he has clearly struck is the anxiety the month of October cre-

ates among investors.
In both 1929 and 1987 it was in October that the infamous crashes happened. In 1989 and 1990, it also fell sharply in the month. What's more, when the big crashes did come, they followed precisely the same kind of unrelenting upward movement for many months that we have seen this year.

In a business as easily spooked as the stock market, folk memory counts for a lot and you can be sure that if a more leg to this bull market big correction does occur this after all.

Now, normally it is the safest month, it could easily slip over into something worse, as investors compete to outscare each other with tales of what borrors lie ahead.

At the moment, however, optimism remains the order of the day. Any risk that the US might be flirting with recession appears to have passed, and American industry - having picked itself up by its boot straps five years ago - is now going through one of its most

gung-ho phases.

If it lasts, it may even do some good for Bill Clinton's prospects in the next presidential election.

Those who think Wall Street has shot its bolt must contend with the mounting evidence that the economic and political cycles are now firmly back

They went badly awry in 1992, when the last recession effectively did for former president George Bush. The market may be at scary levels, and will have its long-overdue 5-10 per cent correction soon. But the re-emergence of Joe Glanville has persuaded me that there may still be one

Speed trap

The perils of cheap motor insurance page 27

Growing pains

The cost of reproduction page 28

Will power

Ensuring a clear inheritance page 30

And the numbers are ... rosy for Britain's great national pastime

By Clifford German

when ball number 39 first came up in the National Lottery - and it has never been in the winning frame since, making it unquestionably the rarest winner since the Great National Pastime began. Numbers 6, 7, 13, and 35 have only won four times, including bonus balls, in the 47 draws to date.

By contrast 22 has won 12 times a specific by one, who pocketed the 5 has won 11 times, and 28 has won. Toll over prize of 220m. On 7 Jan10 times, followed by 16, 21, 25, 31, charge the highest winning number 38, 41 and 44, all of which have was 32 and there was no big winappeared nine times. If there is any ner at all, and on 25 Pebruary the justice, which there probably isn't, most of these should be due for a gle winner scooped £7m. rest this week.

If, like me, you despair of winning by banking on the number of appearances for each number baiancing out over the long run, perhaps you would prefer to look at numbers that have been out of the limelight for a while. Apart from 39, number 6 has not won since week 22, number 36 won last week but had missed out since week 23. while 9 and 13 have not made it since week 28. Yet number 10, which used to be a rare bird, has now come up four times in the last seven weeks.

Although many punters still use birthdays as a basis for choosing their numbers, in spite of scoffing by gambling correspondents, there is reason to believe the vast majority of punters doctor their birthdayhased selections in order to gen-

their six selections across the whole range from 1 to 49.

But winning numbers do bunch ticket sales. quite frequently and when they do they tend to produce big winners. around £65m a week in normal So on 17 December, when the first weeks, and the prize pool is runfive numbers were under 20, there ning at just under £30m, but the were only two winners and when it happened again, on 8 July, there

highest number was 33 and a sin-On 10 December all six winning

numbers were in the top half of the range, the lowest winning number was 26, and the bonus ball was 28. There was just one winner. But on 17 June, when the lowest number was 27 and the bonus was 2, there were seven prize-winners. On 29 July the lowest winning number was 28 and the bonus ball was 11 and there were three winners. If there is pattern, it suggests families may be choosing numbers based on ages rather than birthdays.

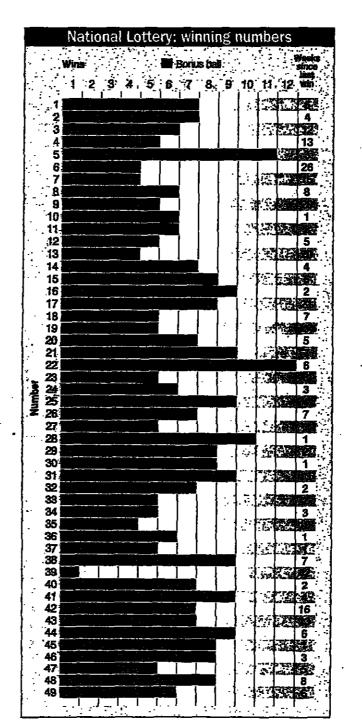
So far the lottery has created 109 instant millionaires, and the sheer size of the payouts has attracted criticism, not least at the Labour Party conference last week. Most punters, if asked individually, say they would not mind if the maximum payout was capped at £1m, in line with premium bonds and the

t was Christmas Eve last year erate higher numbers and spread typical pools jackpot, but the evidence suggests the prospect of a mega-million payout does increase

> Gross sales have steadied out at pool swells to more than £40m in roll-over weeks, when the jackpot from the previous week has not been won and is added to the prize money for the following week. Sales rise to almost £75m in rollover weeks. The last time the jackpot went unclaimed was 9 September, although the combination of winning numbers then was not particularly surprising

A winner last week means an ordinary week is on the cards today, and sales of lottery tickets will have to wait another week to top £3bn. Virginia Bottomley may well be right: Britain has the most successful lottery, for its size, world-wide. Whether that is something to

boast about depends on your point of view. Massive interest in the lottery used to be the prerogative of poor countries like Ireland, Spain and Brazil, where wealth was only accessible to most people in dreams. Now millions of Britons support the lottery because they see it as the only way to attain the prosperity and security they long for. I wonder if Tony Blair can



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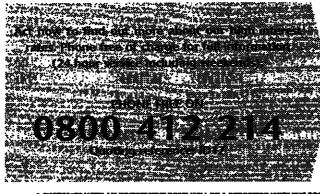
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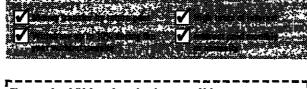
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money

Home is where the mortgage protection premiums are

By James Hipwell

Dorrowers hit by the loss of state ben-Defits if they lose their source of income face more misery when they apply for mortgage protection policies to replace the state aid.

In the past, premiums were standard. But some lenders are planning to charge different rates depending on clients' occupations and their likelihood of claiming because of redundancy, illness or accident.

Those in low-paid jobs susceptible to redundancy could end up paying more than double the rates of highsalaried professionals. A manual worker living in an inexpensive area of the country could end up paying the same premium for this insurance as an accountant in a well-appointed detached home in Surrey.

But it's not just the low-paid who could feel it in the pocket. With merger mania having gripped the mortgage-lending world, it is employ-ees of big banks and building societies who are considered a bad risk.

You have only to look at those towns where there is a Halifax branch right next to an old Leeds Permanent branch to realise the threat of redundancy facing many building society personnel. The Halifax, having swallowed up the Leeds, aims to get its full stock market listing in 1997, when it will become answerable to shareholders baying for bigger profits.

A spokesman for Cornhill Insurance, which itself does not offer standalone mortgage protection insurance, says the people most likely to be hit by high premiums work in financial services and for nationalised industries. The privatisation of nationalised industries is another riskenhancing situation. British Rail staff could find the premiums on their mortgage protection policies going through the roof.

This sort of insurance has become more widely available (and more essential) since the Government brought in controversial changes to income support rules on 1 October. From now on if you contract a serious illness or are made redundant, you should ask who is going to pay your mortgage while you're not earn-

ing. You certainly can't rely on the state to bail you out

Borrowers taking a new loan from now on have been told it will be their responsibility to meet interest payments for the first nine months after losing a job. The message coming out of Kenneth Clarke's last Budget, which proposed the benefit changes, was if you haven't got mortgage pro-

tection insurance, get it.

The Chancellor has refused to back down, and unless he does so in the Budget next month it looks as though this insurance will become a must for homeowners. But it is not cheap, nor is it always available. Most lenders charge between £3 and £8 per £100 of cover needed per month. For cover giving protection against accident, sickness and unemployment, NatWest charges £3 while National & Provincial, on the pricey side, asks for £7.37. So, for a borrower wishing to cover monthly mortgage repayments of £500, the cost would be £15 a month with the bank and £36.85 with the building society.

A more innovative pricing structure props up the Cheltenham & Gloucester's scheme. Protection Plus, where premiums are calculated according to the amount of your loan, not on the amount of cover taken. This means the premium remains the same even if the mortgage rate goes up and guarantees that the mortgage instalment will always be paid in full up to a maximum of £1,300 per month. The lender charges 50p per £1,000 of the loan insured, a reduction of nearly 20 per cent since the changes to income support came into effect.

C&G chief Andrew Longhurst says: "Homeowners will now get less state help with their mortgage payments should they fall ill or lose their jobs, so it's vital that they are adequately covered. We're trying to give our borrowers as much help as we can."

Mortgage protection insurance could become another compulsory insurance, along with buildings and contents and some form of life insurance. Homeowners must be wondering where the soaring costs of home ownership will end.



Is disaster just around the corner?

But mortgage protection policies still need reshaping to meet practical needs. Most lenders say you are not allowed to trigger the payments when it suits you. You have to make a claim. usually within 30 days of whatever it is that is stopping you from making mortgage repayments.

Say, for example, you're not earning because you have been made redundant. You have to make a claim within 30 days and your mortgage repayments will be paid for a year starting in one month's time. The first year might not be the problem, however, if you have a generous redun-dancy settlement. It is the protracted period of unemployment a year later, or a year after that, where the insurance payouts could really help.

With motor insurance you get a reduced premium if you agree to pay for, say, the first £500 of repairs following an accident. A similar arrangement could prevail with mortgage protection insurance so that borrowers get cheaper premiums if they agree to pay their first three monthly mortgage repayments after being made redundant. The inflexibility of so many lenders' schemes means some homeowners will really feel it in the pocket if ever they have to make a claim.

James Hipwell is deputy editor of Your Mortgage magazine

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The M&G PEP

Take a look at the motor insurance you just bought. It says 'comprehensive'. But is it?

By Nigel Richards



late? A small saving in aco miliago cost a lot if the insurer will not pay out fully after an accident Photograph:

hy do sensible shoppers seemingly throw caution to the wind when buying motor insurance? For most people this is one of their most significant annual outlays, yet many hunt for the cheapest offer, assuming all motor policies are identi-

cal in every respect bar price. Tempted by advertisements promising to save pounds, motorists will ring round for quotations, without stopping to consider policy cover or claims ser-

Motor policies are not the same, not even fully comprehensive policies. The standard of service at the time of a claim can differ from one insurer to another.

There is no point in buying a cheap policy only to discover, when a claim occurs, that you do not have the cover which you thought you had, or that your insurer, who was so keen to take your premium, is not so keen to part with money for a claim.

Unfortunately, few people actually question telesales staff as to precisely what the policy does cover, and what it does not.

Ten years ago the ability to find the cheapest quotation in the market was limited. But today, thanks to new technology, over 100 different motor than it used to take to check a single accepted.

posal forms and all the client has to do is to sign and date the document.

This ability to handle larger volumes of inquiries has led to the growth of telesales operations and the motorist has been encouraged to shop around for the cheapest quotations.

It is now a simple process for a broker to find the insurer offering the lowest rate for a given risk. Insurers have to be competitive on brokers' quotation systems if they are to attract business. Similarly, direct insurers have to

ensure consistently competitive rates against the broker market if they are to attract and, more importantly, retain

This competition has benefited the motorist. Premiums have fallen on average by about 15 per cent in the last 12 months and as a result the insurers have been compelled to become more efficient.

It is not all good news, however. Having made it so easy for customers those renewing with their existing insurers has fallen.

To combat this loss, insurers have to attract increasing numbers of new clients and incur considerable expenditure in both marketing and quotation costs. Some insurers find that they are having to provide as many as 10 quoschemes can be checked in less time tations for every one risk that is

The computer can generate the pro- funded by the motorist - and primar- £100" of any claim, and a compulsory

ily by those who never change insurers. To look at it another way: if motorists stopped shopping around for cheaper insurance, insurers' overheads and therefore all premiums should actually

The need for insurers to improve the number of accepted quotations has seen two worrying developments.
In order to achieve cheaper premi-

ums some companies now offer comprehensive policies with reduced cover. For example, the policy may not include personal accident, medical, contents, radio or car window cover. Such policies may well be suited to

some, but the danger is that these con-tracts are still sold as comprehensive policies - without the limitations being explained. It is too late to find out, following a claim, what a small saving in premium has cost in real terms; or that for a similar premium a policy offering con-

ventional comprehensive cover could to change insurers, the percentage of have been secured. The practice of marketing these policies as comprehensive should be ended. The second concern relates to excesses. This is the term used for the

amount that the insured motorist has

to pay personally in the event of a

There are two types of excess. A voluntary excess, where the client can secure a reduction in premium by

excess, demanded by the insurer to reduce the risk. Both should clearly be identified to the client at the quotation

Regrettably, this is not always so in the case of compulsory excesses, where the excess is part of the basic policy wording. This is often the case with the direct market, where a compulsory excess of £250 or more is quite com-

These excesses enable insurers to offer lower premiums, which the motorist may then compare to premiums for policies without an excess, not realising they are not like-for-like.

Any excess applicable under a policy should always be indicated to customers prior to their acceptance of the

Purchasing motor insurance is not, therefore, simply a matter of finding the cheapest deal. You may well find a direct insurer offering favourable rates and cover but check also with a registered broker.

In the time it takes direct insurers to quote their single product to you, a broker will have checked numerous schemes and be able to provide professional independent advice on the most suitable product for your indi-

The broker can do this and still be competitive with the direct market.

> Nigel Richardson is Motor Schemes Manager at RAC Insurance. The Independent is introducing a Motor Insurance Question and Answer service for readers, which will be provided by RAC Insurance Services. If you have any queries please write to "Motor Insurance Q&A" c/o the Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Answers will be published every four weeks. Unfortunately we cannot intervene in existing disputes or return

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Forget the idea that all policies are the same and the only deciding factor is price. Do you really need to change insurers? If you have received good service. especially at the time of a claim, think hard and fast before changing. If you do decide to change, ring around, but do not forget the registered broker, who is duty-bound to act

primarily in your best

interest, not the

Seize the first. or the lowest quote you can find without asking what exactly the cover is. Is it really comprehensive, or are there specific exclusions? Is there a compulsory excess you must

of a claim? Does the policy cover legal costs if you have to fight your claim?

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Congratulations. It's a girl. And, boy, is it going to cost you

Justin Urquhart-Stewart on the third stage in man's financial life

differentiate between the "Ahh" of the cooing parent when seeing their beloved newborn and the "Aargh!" of the parent when seeing the cost of the equipment for their beloved newborn.

From that moment we realise this baby is not a sound financial investment. To be fair, that is not why we decide to have children, but it is certainly worth bearing in mind when embarking on starting a fam-

There is never a good time to start a family, but that is no reason for us not to make some preparations. Before going any further consider your financial situation. You may both be currently working, and possibly both wish to carry on with your careers. These days this is commonplace but still needs plan-

It is not just a question of maternity leave, but the impact your change of circumstances can have on your family's income, as well as outgoings. Those spur-of-the-moment holidays and treats look as Kir. To paraphrase somebody, "Never in the field of

hey say that children learn language from the though they are quite likely to become a fond mem-moment of birth. I wonder if they can ory. Adjust your purse's expectations now - that way you are less likely to be depressed when all you seem to have in it is an echo and a sticky sweetie paper. Preparation

Entitlements: If both of you are working then you will need to check with your personnel department about statutory maternity pay. If you are self-employed you may be entitled to state maternity allowance. If in doubt, help can be obtained from Social Security offices or your nearest child health clinics.

Also, if you wish to continue to work on a full- or part-time basis, now is the time to consider the alterseem obvious but it is important to start looking at all the possible financial implications.

The good news is that you will be able to claim child allowance. This is payable irrespective of your incomes and can be an extremely helpful support. I found that having it paid into a separate account was very useful for those extra unexpected baby costs.

human endeavour has so much been spent on someone so little". It is hardly believable that so much equipment is going to be required and at such a cost. Make a list of what you will need and if ANYONE offers to provide you with anything on the list - even second-hand - accept it. Whether it is cots, buggies or highchairs the list will grow in direct proportion to your ability to pay for it.

Key areas to consider Education: Whether you are planning private education or not, now is the time to start putting money aside. If you go private, then in prepared to put aside significant sums each month from now on. This could natives and the reaction of your employer. This may be over £150 per month. The rule is don't try and cover it all but at least try and cover the worst. More importantly for many is the ability to pay for university. This could be over £3,000 each year at present values, and don't rely on getting a grant.

The art is to start early, and I prefer flexible schemes, not ones just tied to education. As this is hopefully a five-year-plus investment then look at Peps, which can provide a good tax-free return with a lot of flexibility. Care here, though. Look at the charges and the quality of the provider. You can have these managed for you or choose your own investments if you wish, albeit with some advice.

Insurance: Now there will be at least three of you, it is time to consider what would happen if either of you were not around. See if your job includes life cover, and if not consider some term insurance. This pays out if you die within a period, either as a lump

How much? Add up all areas of income and deduct the amount your family would be entitled to if you died. The balance is the amount of cover you

An important element here is critical liness. You can be left very short if the bread-winner of the family is struck with a illness and cannot work. Again check with your employer first and then look to private cover. But take care. It can be expensive, so only look for it to provide some help.

Savings, Investments and Pensions: Although your insurance schemes may cover the dire emergencies, it is vital to establish not only a short-term emergency fund, but long-term investments as well. Starting a family is expensive, so don't worry if you cannot save much now. But don't use that as a reason for too long. If you are like me, I find it best to have the money

siphoned off at pay day by standing orders before I can get my sticky fingers on it. Regular savings schemes into unit and investment trusts are very straightforward and low cost. You can protect them from tax in a Pep and at least you can have a choice. As for pensions, if you have not done so, start one.

If you do not have a company pension then put some time aside to evaluate a private one. You have lots of choice, so shop around. Think of quality though. You want good returns in the long term, not a oneyear wonder. Wills: I am very boring about wills, but I cannot

underline enough how important it is to set out sound financial arrangements for those you leave behind. I would go further and say that it is unfair on your family if you do not. Other Issues: Having a baby often elicits gifts. With-

out wishing to appear callous. I would suggest pre-As expensive as it may have been, I have not been able to find a practical use for the 14-inch gold-plated

spoon kindly given to me by a god parent. The donation of National Savings certificates or some cash into a National Savings Account would do nicely. Finally, if you do have any money left I can recommend to parents doing the late feed the purchase of a pair of radio headphones capable of getting the

> The author is business development director at Barclays Stockbrokers.

Your questions answered by a panel from Coopers and Lybrand



have made provision for my retirement, aged 62, in 2005. My company pension will provide 30/60 of my final salary and free standing Additional Voluntary Contributions and PEPs (roughly 50 per cent in each) will make up the balance to the maximum per-

mitted 40/60. I now have the option to retire at 60. By making monthly contributions, how can I best make up the difference between what will be a reduced pension of 28/60 in 2003 and the 40/60 maximum for these two years (2003/5)?

The difference is more than 12/60 for two years. You envisage your free standing AVCs and PEPs providing 10/60 from age 62. By retiring at age 60 the level of income fr these will also be reduced. Lan shortfall is more than 2/60 for life. AVCs and Peps remain

the most efficient means of providing for your retirement assuming that you are not contributing at the maximum rates already. If you are, Tessas, National Savings and unit trust savings plans could be considered.

The decision is complicated by future changes in taxation and interest rates. We suggest you seek independent financial advice to obtain a view based on your full cir-

have a Tessa which I took lout nearly five years ago and is due to mature early next year. Can I reinvest all the proceeds in a new Tessa?

Tessas first became available in January 1991, so the first accounts will be maturing next January. The rules allow you to roll over capital from the first Tessa, up to a maximum of £9,000, into a new Tessa, However, you cannot roll over the interest so you will have to find an alternative home for this. Other than this the same rules apply to the new Tessa as the old Tessa, that is a maximum of £9,000 capital invested over five years. You can only hold one Tessa at a time.

> Readers should send their questions regarding financial and investment matters to our panel of experts at Question Time, Personal Finance Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Whart London E14 5DL Questions will be sent to Coopers & Lybrand and a selection will appear in Money.

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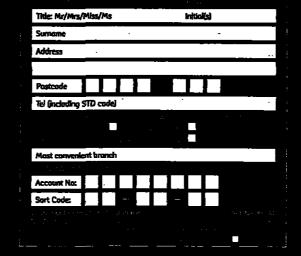
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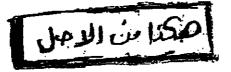
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Credit in only available to persons aged 18 or over and is subject to status and conditions, Mortgage loans are available from Notional Westminister Home Loans Libited, 41 Ladiburg, London EC2P 28P, or from any bronch. Representative Examples A couple finale and leanable, both non-smalers speed 25, applying for on Endowment mortgage of 550,000 operies a property valved at \$57,000 over 25 gears (200 manifest), initial mortiful pagament of fixed more enterests would be \$230,83 geass, \$291,95 net. Monthly endowment provides would be \$240,632,000 operies on more than \$775.01 of the purchase price or valuation, whichever is the lower. We have excludited this example on the basis that interest will be changed at this same fixed after for the dail term of the mortgage price or valuation, whichever is the lower. We have excludited this example on the basis that interest will be changed at the same fixed after for the dail term of the mortgage from the fixed page from the fixed route terms agreed, to, for example, or example,



FEAR OF FINANCE **Clifford German**



Amillion small share-holders who bought TSB shares in 1986 will find themselves holding the same number of shares in Lloyds TSB, and each is likely to be worth about 20p more than their present TSB holdings were worth before the bid. Their investment will also be valued around three times the price they paid nine years ago, and they will get a special dividend of 68p a share net as an additional reward for their tenacity.

Shed no tears either for the TSB executives who may get the chop. They will be well rewarded for their loss of office, although because of the way the deal is structured it is the Lloyds Bank senior executives who stand to get the profit: ble

But this is not a public utility being taken over. There is no regulator calling for a better deal for customers as part of the price of letting the bid go through, and there will be no sops for customers in the shape of reductions in

their bank charges. Lloyds Bank's chief executive, Sir Brian Pitman, is promising the savings made from the merger will enable the new bank to sell financial services more efficiently. But TSB customers are unlikely to see any immediate reward in the shape of better service, and in practice many of them will find their handy local and error-prone services. branches shut and the business transferred to a local Lloyds Bank branch which may or may not be as convenient

They can always vote with their feet and move their accounts to another sales line of all.

bank or building society, or to one of the new generation of telephonebased banks like First Direct.

Customers do switch banks more often than they used to. But the banking marketplace which for so long was dominated by the Big Five clearing banks, before building societies began to offer full banking services with chequebooks and cash cards, is contracting again.

The biggest visible effect is in the closure of branches and the centralisation of services which used to be available locally.

The banks argue that centralisation is essential to take advantage of technology and streamline their costs, even if the result is massive job losses in the industry which used to be synonymous with job security for

This column has no brief to argue that bank and building society staff should be immune from the pressures that have worked their way through manufacturing industry and are now devastating service industries too.

But the banks and building societies should remember that they already have a bad public image, which further dislocation can only aggravate.
You cannot win busi-

ness by providing remote

The great majority of customers are not yet ready for banking by remote control, and the time may soon come when a friendly face is again recognised as the best

Best borrowing rates					
MORTGAGES					
	Telephone .	% Rate and period	Max adv %	. Fee	łocentive
Fixed rates		,			
Bristol & West BS	0800 100117	0.95 to 30/11/96	90	£275	_
Chelsea BS	0117 929 2444	3.24 to 1/1/97	80	£195	Free ASU insurance
Coventry BS	0800 126125	4.75 to 1/1/98	85	£250	_
1st Mortgge Securities	0500 050055	5.75 to 1/11/98	75	£275	
Britannia BS	01249 655971	7.24 for 5 years	· 95	£300	· —
TSB	Local branch	8.54 to 30/6/05	95	£250	Free valuation
Variable rates					
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	1.79 for 1 year	.95	_	£150 cashback
Halifax BS	0800 834625	4.99 to 30/11/97	90		Free val, £250 cashback
Nottingham Imperial	0800 340566	5.49 for 3 years	90	. —.	_
National Counties BS	01372 739702	6.49 for 5 years	· 70		. <u>-</u>

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Variable rates Scarborough BS	0800 590547	1.79 for 1 year	oe	£150 cashback
		•	.95 —	
Halifax BS	Q800 834 <u>62</u> 5	4.99 to 30/11/97		Free val, £250 cashback
Nottingham Imperial	0800 340566	5.49 for 3 years	90 —	· —
National Counties BS	01372 739702	6.49 for 5 years	70 <u>—</u>	· -
PERSONAL LOANS		. ·	1-4	
	Telephone	APR	Fixed monthly p	payments
•		. •	£3,000 for 3 ye	ars .
Unsecured			With insurance	Without insurance
Midland Bank	Local branch	15.40·	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS	080808 0080	15.50	£118.22	£103.29
Yorkshire Bank	0113 231 5324	15.50	£119.34	£103.34
Secured .			Max adv %	Max term
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	8.80	95	2 to 25 years
Royal B of Scotland	0800 121121	10.10	70	3 years - retirement
First Direct	0800 242424	10.30	80	Up to 40 years

TYPICAL OVERDE	rafts					
, ·	Telephone	Authorised EAR %		Joanthorise	ed EAR %	
Barclays Bank	Local Branch	19.20		29.80		
Lloyds Bank	Local Branch,	19.40		26.80		
Nat West Bank	Local Branch	18. 90	:	33.25		
BEST OVERDRAF	TS			1, 1		
	Telephone	Authorised EAR %	(laauthorise	al EAR %	
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	9,50	2	29.50		•
Affiance & Leicester	0500 959595	9.50	2	9.80		
Abbey National	0500 200500	9.90	2	29.50		
CREDIT CARDS						
	Telephone	Card	Min	Rate	APR	Annsai
Standard			income	pm %	%	fee
R Fleming (S&P)	0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	_	0.98	12.40	_
Royal B of Scotland	0800 161616	MasterCard	_	1.14	14.50	_
TSB	Local branch	MasterCard/Visa		1.38	17.90	_
Gold cards	TOOM THURSDAY	HIMOTON ACT OF \$ 150	_	1.00	17.50	

MBNA International	0800 062620 _.	visa MasterCard/Vi	sa £20,000	1.45	18.90
STORE CARDS					
·	Telephone	Payment by d	irect debit	Other n	nethods
•	-	% om	APR	% pm	APR
John Lewis	Local store	_	- .	1.39	18.00
Marks and Spencer	01244 681681	1.90	25.30	200	26,80
Burtons Oction	Local store	1.97	26.30	2.21	29.90

MasterCard

£20,000 1.15

APR All rate	Ann S Sub	valisi ject t	ed pe o cha	auge acent	age rate. without no	EAR tice.	effective annual rate.
			_	_			

Local branch

16.50

£40

£35

	Telephone Number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit 	Rate %	Interes interva
INSTANT ACCE	SS					
City & Metropolitat	0181 464 0814	City Gold	Instant	210	4.75	Year
Portman BS	01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£500	5.00	Year
Slópton BS	01756 700500	High Street	Instant	£2,000 £15,000	5.60 5.57	Year Year
POSTAL ACCOU	INTS					
Manchester BS	0161 839 5545	Money by Mail	Postal	£1,000	5.50	Year
Leeds & Holbeck	0113 243 8292	Albion investment	Postal	210,000	6.00	Year
Northern Rock BS		Go Direct	Postal	£20,000	6.10	Year
Leeds & Holbeck	0113 243 8292	Albion investment	Postal	£25,000	6.20	Year
NOTICE ACCOU						
Bradford & Bingley		Direct 60	60 day P	25,000	6.30	Year
Bradford & Bingley		Direct 60	60 day P	£15,000	6.75	Year
Catholic BS	0171 222 6736	Jubilee Bond II	90 day	£2,000	6.67	Yea
National Counties	01372 742211	90 Second Issue	90 day	£20,000	6.70	Yea
MONTHLY INTE Manchester BS	REST 0161 839 5545	Money by Mail	Postal	£1,000	5.37	Month
Britannia BS	01538 392808	Capital Trust	Postal	£2.000	5.46	Month
Northern Rock BS	-,	Current Acc Gold	Postal	£10,000	6.08	Month
Northern Rock BS		Current Acc Gold	Postal	£25,000	6.31	Monti
TESSAS (tax-e)	xempt special	savings accoun	its)			
Britannia BS	01538 392804	•	5 уваг	£8,315	7.65 F	Yea
Sun Banking	01438 744500		5 year	£8,575	7.50 F	Year
Barclays Bank	0800 400100		5 year	21,000	7.40 F	Year
Tipton & Cosely	0121 557 2551		5 year	<u>-</u>	7.35 	Year
HIGH-INTEREST				0500	0.00	
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	Current	Instant	2500	3.20	Year
Halifax BS	01422 333333	Asset Reserve	Instant	£5,000	4.50	3 Mins
Chelsea BS Northern Rock BS	0800 717515 0500 505000	Classic Postal Current Acc Gold	Instant Postal	£2,500 £50,000	5.50 6.50	Year Monthly
OFFSHORE (gro	<u></u>					
Portman Cl	01481 822747	Instant Gold	instant	£5.000	6.20	Year
Alliance & L. 10M	D1824 663566	Manximum	Instant	£25,000	6.65	Year
Newcastle GIB	00 350 76168	Nova 90 O'shore	90 day	£50,000	7.25	Year
Portman Cl	01481 822747	Gold Bond Acc	3 year	25,000	7.50 F	Year
VATIONAL SAVI	NGS Accounts &	bonds (gross)				
nvestment Account		-	1 month	£20	5.25	Year
				£500	5.75	Year
				£25,000	6.00	Year
ncome Bonds			3 month	£2,000	6.50	Month
				£25,000	6.75	Month
Capital Bonds		Series I	5 year	£100	7.75 F	Maturity
irst Option Bonds			12 month	£1,000	6.40 F	Year
=				£20,000	6.80 F	Year
ensioner's G'teed IS Certificates (tax-		Series 2	5 year	£500	7.50 F	Month
	42nd issue		5 year	£400	E 9E F	Litaria anti-
			5 year	£100	5.85 F	Maturity
	8th index linked	lamus C	5 year	£100	3.00+RPI	_
	Children's Bond	issue u	5 year	£25	7.85 F	Maturity

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All figures to 31 December (1995 figure to 30605). *Back net rate to 1962 - source EDM. Thereafter highest net rate available from Micropal (£25,000+ Account), based on total return, net income reinvested, fiscures Foreign & Colonial Management Lid using mid-market prices, net income reinvested, incl. bistorical 3.5% notional expenses. Plan charges 0.2% commission and 0.5% Gove, stamp duty. Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd (regulated by MARO and the Personal Investment).

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ation/advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products. by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Make your will. Before you die

A trip to the solicitor to write a will can be put off indefinitely. The consequences can be grave. By Clifford German

first it was Christmas, Easter and New Year that extended from a single day to an entire week. Then came weeks for national charities for cancer relief and blood donors. Now secular themes are seizing weeks of the year to publicise their causes, and next

Monday begins National Will Week. Making a will ranks somewhere close to fixing that dripping tap or decorating the spare room in the long list of activities that just beg to be put off. And unlike a trip to the dentist a visit to the solicitor to make a will can be put off indefinitely. Indeed 70 per cent of adults never get around to it at all.

That never used to matter much when the majority of ordinary folk lived and died without getting much above the breadline, and lived relatively uncomplicated lives, leaving enough to money for a funeral, and a house and a widow's pension if they were lucky.

But increasing personal wealth, a rising divorce rate and the workings of inheritance tax have complicated matters, while the laws governing the dis-posal of the assets of anyone who dies without a will have changed hardly at

The law provides that after debts and taxes have been paid the assets of anyone who dies without making a will have to be divided according to a set formula, which may vary slightly in Scotland. As a general rule if there are children the surviving spouse gets half the estate and the children share the other half. If there are no children but the deceased has parents or other blood relatives still living, the spouse and the relatives of the deceased will be entitled to half each.

surviving parents does the whole estate provisions for their pets into their wills.

Gifts to charities are exempt from pass automatically to the surviving husband or wife.

If, however, you are separated but be entitled to a claim on your estate together. If they remarry after your death your own children may get

But the law of inheritance still does not recognise relationships other than marriage and blood. If you have been living with someone, however long, that person will get nothing when you die even if you have had children. unless you have made a will. A proper will can save a lot of heart-break and possible hardship, but many

people still think it does not matter, or that there will be time enough to make a will later on, or that it is a complicated and time-consuming procedure. Excuses are legion and easy to find. But if you have a reasonable idea of who you want your assets to go to cash, bank and building society accounts, stocks and shares, property and any valuables you have, like cars, jewellery or postage stamp collections – it is easy enough to draw up a list of where you would like each or all of them to go, or if you prefer them to be sold, how you would like the proceeds divided up. You can also nominate executors to administer your will and make provisions for your funeral

Making a will is also a useful way of making an inventory of assets to make sure you do not unwittingly go over the inheritance tax threshold, currently £154,000, and end up incurring tax at 40 per cent on the excess.

donation.

Many people simply leave everything to their spouses, but this is never wholly wise especially if both husband and wife die together. But there is no reason why you should not make a few personal bequests of favourite items to favourite godchildren, to charities and to friends and institutions as a token of appreciation. e entitled to half each.

Unexpected gifts are often the most appreciated. Many people now write

inheritance tax. Otherwise, however, sharing out your estate does nothing not divorced, your husband or wife will to reduce the burden of inheritance tax unless you started giving things away just as if you had still been living well before you died. Various pressure groups urge the Chancellor each year to reduce the tax burden if assets are nothing when your former partner dispersed to more than one



Act of will: Seventy per cent of adults die without leaving a record of how their assets should be distributed

The simplest way to turn your well want £100 or more. For a fee solicwishes into a legal document is to go to a solicitor. Most solicitors are willing to draw up a will for you and many now advertise their services in the local Yellow Pages. If you do not have a solicitor it is easy to find one locally who will arrange an interview to talk through your wishes and draw up a will that will make your wishes legally

When you have an idea of what you want to do and how complicated it might be, it is often wise to ask for an estimate because solicitors have no set scale of charges.

Some solicitors claim to draft a straightforward will for as little as £35.

itors will also keep a copy of your will, act as executors, and make sure your wishes are carried out.

The cheapest way to make a will is to buy a DTY kit from a legal stationer for a few pounds, complete with instructions on how to write the details and have your signature properly witnessed (remembering of course that vitnesses cannot also be beneficiaries). But there can be no guarantee that a DIY will will stand up in court if your wishes are ambiguous.

Alternatively you could write off to a firm like Willmakers, which supplies a will guide and converts your wishes into a proper will, which is returned to ter and Aberdeen (0345-697824) for but in the posher suburbs they may you with signing instructions and a a fee of £19.99.

plain English summary. There is a flat fee of £49.50, or £79.50 for "mirror" wills for couples whose wishes are similar. For £17.95 Willmakers also offers forms to create an Enduring Power of Attorney nominating someone to administer your affairs if you are no longer able to do so, and for a further £9.95 a Living Will, which records your wishes on medical treatment and creates a healthcare proxy to help take future decisions.

If you want to make doubly certain that your will can be found when you die you can register its whereabouts on a central database with Central Wills Lodgement Bureau, based in Leices-

Health market gets healthier

Inspired by news that the general public spent an extra 4 per cent on private medical insurance last year after three years of virtual stagnation, the top two providers of private medical insurance, Bupa and PPP, launched new campaigns this week to win more customers.

PPP, which claims 27 per cent of the market, launched a £20m marketing campaign emphasising positive healthcare programmes instead of simply underwriting insurance risks.

Healthcare for Life will offer a range of four plans, from deluxe to budget, which can provide services appropriate for all age groups. All plans include medical screening services, eye tests and 24-hour access to what it claims is the world's biggest telephone healthinformation service.

It also plans new stand-alone or addon products aimed specifically at women and at individuals with active

Woman's Plan cover includes annual health screens, private out-patient and daycare treatment, £1,000 of pregnancy cover, infertility treatment and hormone replacement therapy. With customers paying the first £50 of each claim the monthly premiums are a flat

The Fast-Lane plan includes health screens, free annual eye test, private and out-patient treatment and £10,000 in the event of critical illness, overseas accident and emergency cover and repatriation costs. With a £50 excess the annual premiums start at £12.52 a month for a 21-year-old, rising with age to £15.63 at 35 and £25.25 at age 50, which is the maximum age for which cover is available. Premiums are the same both for men and women.

Bupa, still the market leader although its share has dipped below 50 per cent in the last 10 years, is increasing maximum cover on its disability income plan from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of gross salary (less longterm state incapacity benefit), with a choice of lifetime cover, cover until retirement and a two-year limited ben-

efit cover. Critical illness cover provides a lump sum on diagnosis of critical illnesses including cancer, heart attack, stroke, multiple scierosis, Parkinson's Disease and loss of speech, hearing and sight. A tax-free Hospital Cash plan to help recuperation from specific types of

surgery is also on offer.

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mortgage of £60,000 taken over 25 years*. What's more, we'll always try to ensure that it remains at a competitive rate throughout the whole of its life. Once your mortgage is complete, we won't charge you any additional penalty should you decide to leave. To apply for your mortgage or just to find out more, call us now and see how much you could save.

mple the typical standard mortgage rate used is that of Bradford & Bingley Building Society as at 7th September 1995. Savings based on hase loan of £60,000 taken on an interest only bank over a term of 25 years. Rate assumed: 2.68% in first year (5.3% discount) and 7.98% inder of the term. Savings are based on current rates available from my branch of Bradford & Bingley and are variable.

her storagegy are not considered 75% of the purchase price/valuation (whichever is the lower).

TYPICAL EXAMPLE: A morngage of 250,000 completed on September 5th taken out on an "interest Only" basis, with one capital repay.

CON 000 country attract an APR of 7.5% (waitable). Cross monthly interest only morng ble £164,859.55 includes the mangage advance of £60,000, £117.50 solicine's fees (these fees are not up pp, A Mortgage Congamee charge is not payable for this example, Rates quo

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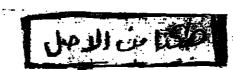
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staying in



THURSDAY

Coming Solid. The Tribe Confessions
7.20pm R4, An Othersel Imough the
manic world of the American confessional
talkshow, in company with Simon Cring
fie theets adjustible within lives were
mined and asks could it happen here.

Football Fussball Voetbal 7.15pm BBC2 (above). A new series to take the mind

(above). A new series to take the mind off the (non) event in Norway this week a vicok back over four decades of European football (508020).

A Question of Sport: the first 25 Years 8.30 pm BBC1. They've got to be kidning? No. they're not. From David Vine to David Coleman, and pulling rank on They think it's all Over, the only thing to stay the same are the Pringle sweaters (9643).

Under the Indian Sun 10am R4 FM. Clare Jenkins looks at the lives of Britons th modern India — she starts in Calcutta and the Tollygunge Club, a relic of the Rai, where Indians have only been admit-ted as members in the last 20 years.

Sunday Television and Radio

BBC₁

7.45 Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories. An eightyear-old who died 40 years ago mystically reappears to her father, and a 17-year-old student
is upset when he learns he has to move – 85
billion miles away (R) (S) (6125776). *
8.30 Breakfast with Frost (99467).
9.30 First Light (S) (79757).
10.00 See Hearl (S) (44496).
10.30 Golf World Metchalay Championchia Storie

by Robert Hanks Week 13 hs

10.30 Golf: World Matchplay Championship. Steve Rider presents live coverage of the climax from Wentworth's West Course (S) (42221). 12.00 CountryFile (S) (57047). 12.30 News; on the Record (93080). *

1.30 EastEnders. Omnibus (S) (6945757). * 2.55 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (9410221). 3.45 Biteback. Viewers' gripes (S) (8619592). *
 4.25 Junior Masterchef. The semi-final, judged by Egon Ronay's Chef of the Year, Paul Heathcote,

and Emma Forbes (S) (8417738). 1 4.55 The Clothes Show (S) (2535370). * 5.20 The Great Antiques Hurst. From Northern Ireland (S) (3207592). *

6.00 News; Weather (237370). * 6.20 Local News (861486).

6.25 Songs of Praise, Hymns from Coventry Cathedral 7.00 Last of the Summer Wine (S) (3221). * 7.30 Challenge Anneka. Rice is challenged to bring

two African lions back from their unsultable cages in a zoo in Athens (S) (416196). *
8.20 Children in Need. Terry Wogan and Sue Cook show where some of the £16.2 million raised in ast year's appeal went (S) (372757). *

8.30 Keeping Up Appearances. Emmet is rehearsing for an amateur musical (S) (8776). *
Pride and Prejudice, 4/6. The buth at Wickham (S) (598931), *

9.55 News; Weather (241689). *
10.10 In Search of Happiness. Deadpan Angus
Deayton is our guide. But how would you be able to tell if Deayton ever found happiness? (\$)

(190689). *
10.50 Everyman. The Turin Strroud (S) (162414). *
11.30 BRED Dead of Winter (Arthur Penn 1987 US). Disappointingly formulaic thriller from the once-great Penn, in which actress Mary Steenburgen is summoned to the house of a movie producer and offered the part vacated halfway through a film by another actress (731641). 1.10 The Sky at Night (S) (1469500).

1.30 Weather (3592158). To 1.35em. REGIONS. Wales: 12.00pm Homeland. 1.30 News Headlines: Weather. NI: 2.55pm Now You're

BBC2

7.20 The Adventures of Skippy (R) (9135202). 7.45 Playdays (R) (S) (1866979).

8.05 Casper Classics (6800844), 8.20 Mortimer and Arabel (R) (S) (6898009). 8.35 Jackanory. Pauline Quirke and Willie Rushton read tales with a piratical theme (S) (4743950). 8.50 Bitsa (R) (S) (1886844).

9.05 The Animals of Farthing Wood Toad betriends a 9.05 The Animals of Farthing Wood load bethends a rat – a common enough mistake (\$) (5484931).

9.30 Skeleton Warriors (8554863).

9.55 Travel Bug. Game show (\$) (8539554).

10.25 Grange Hill (R) (3116825). *

10.50 The Little Vampire (\$) (3484318).

11.15 Growing Up Wild (\$) (5423047).

11.40 Star Trek (R) (5770028). *

12.30 The Starter Shore (1611702).

12.30 The Sunday Show (1511793).
1.15 The O Zone. Brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher of Oasis are the guests (S) (28218844).
1.30 Golf: World Matchplay Championship. Live coverage of this afternoon's play from Wentworth. With Steve Rider (S) (40882115).

5.10 Rugby Special. Highlights from the sixth week of the Courage Division One. With John Inverdale (S) (5402221).

6.10 Trials of Life (R) (S) (509825). * 7.00 Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld. The car culture of Italy (R) (S) (1863). * 7.30 Timewatch. The true tale of Pocahonias.

currently being rendered unrecognisable by Disney. See Preview, p32 (S) (414738).

8.20 The Money Programme. Volkswagen's attempts to re-invent the Skoda (301931). *

9.00 Cinema Europe - the Other Hollywood. Germany. See Preview, p.32 (S) (8486). *
10.00 See Delusion (Carl Colpaert 1990 US). Taut, fidy, little-seen thriller in which an embezzling computer executive picks up a Las Vegas show

girl and her psycho boyfriend whilst crossing Death Valley (63370). * 11.30 Golf: World Matchplay Championship. Highlights from today's 36-hole final at Wentworth (S) (373405).

12.10 HIMA Short Film About Killing (Krzysztof Kieslowski 1987 Pol). The sixth of Kieslowski's films based on the Ten Commandments is one of the more accessible - a bleakly-filmed story of the motiveless murder of a Warsaw taxi driver and the state's equally lethal approach to the perpertrator (4698719). To 1.35am.

2.00 The Learning Zone: FETV Collectables: Women at Work. 4.00 Languages: The French Experience. 5.00 Italianissimo. 6.00 Technology Season: Pandora's Box. A Is for Atom. REGIONS. Wales: 5.10pm Scrum 5.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News and Sport. 7.00 The Sunday Programme

8.00 Disney Adventures (S) (3361592), * 9.25 Disney Parade (S) (4989252), 10.15 Link (S) (2969950), *

10.30 This Sunday. Including 11.00 Morning Worship from St Luke's, Brislington in Bristol (S) (74979). * 12.30 Crosstalk (Followed by London Weather)

(68641). 1.00 News, Weather (28226863). *
1.10 Jonathan Dimbleby. Jonathan Dimbleby asks

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, if the European dream is over. Presumably, like General De Gaulle, his answer will be "non" (S) (3468554). 2.00 Opening Shot. Film made presumably in the light

of the current Riverdance craze. Six budding dancers followed as they prepare themselves for the World Championships in Galway (S) (4573). 2.30 The Sunday Match. Port Vale vs Crystal Palace. Plus other Endsleigh League highlights. Be there or be at Milan vs Juventus over on Channel 4

(90000689),
5.15 Murder, She Wrote. Jessica becomes suspicious when an old friend of hers dies during an operation (S) (4526216).

6.10 London Tonight (253318), *
6.30 News, Weather (108689). *
6.40 Schofield's Quest. Presumably to resurrect his

rating in the eyes of the media and find a coherent showcase for his talents (123689).
7.30 Heartbeat. George and Greengrass become rivals in pigeon-racing in Sixtles plod drama (S)

9.00 London's Burning (S) (5912). 1

10.00 Hale and Pace. Bird of a Feather Pauline Quirke helps out (S) (43844). *
10.30 News & Weather (440486). * 10.45 The South Bank Show. Jimmy Nail profiled (S)

(378134). * 11.45 London Stage 95. Sheridan Moriey reviews the latest plays (342660).

12.20 Sledge Hammer (8010351). 12.50 Hollywood Report (R) (S) (2323167).

1.20 Tenball (R) (S) (2775245).
2.05 Cue the Music. Cue Saxon (9068516).
3.05 SIBB North to Alaska (Henry Hathaway 1960
US). Love among the goldmines in tum-of-the-century Alaska. Staming John Wayne, Stewart Granger and Capucine (94198871). 5.15 Nite Bites Cookery tips (8990264). 5.30 News (89790). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.05 Blitz! (R) (4472950). 7.00 The Herbs (R) (8118301).

7.15 Lift Off (R) (S) (56196). 7.45 The Great Bong (S) (3870115). 8.00 The Baby-Sitters Club (30370). 8.30 Where on Earth Is Carmen Sandiego? (S) (6997283).

8.55 Exosquad (S) (7099757). 9.25 Running the Halls (R) (S) (5499863). 9.50 The Pink Panther Show (S) (8302399). * 10.00 Aaahh!!!! Real Monsters! (S) (2944641). 10.15 Masterclass. With Richard Liddicott, National

Stunt Kite Champion (S) (2967592). 10.30 Rocko's Modern Life (S) (1355912). 10.45 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (S) (771912). 11.15 Rawhide. Rowdy has to persuade a group of belligerent sheep-herders that jaw jaw is better

than war war (745757). 12.15 Little House on the Prairie. The last-ever

episode, apparently (843842). *

1.15 SIPAT Waterloo Road (Sidney Gilliat 1944

UK). Gilliat's follow-up to Millions Like Us finds
John Mills as a soldier during World War Two
who goes AWOL when he learns that his wife (Joy Shelton) has run off with a flashy spix. played by Stewart Granger (957825). 2.45 Football Italia, Milan vs Juventus. The footie alternative is Port Vale vs Crystal Palace. Followed by News Summary and Weather

(67332283). 5.05 Time Team. Mick Aston and Tony Robinson excavate a Saxon graveyard in Winterbourne Gunner, near Salisbury (R) (S) (2726234). * 6.00 The Persuaders! The unreconstructed bottom

stappers investigate a drowning (74202). *
7.00 Equinox. Imagine Manhattan without lifts. Those kvscrapers wouldn't be possible and the Bir Apple would look like Hounslow, High Anxiety looks at the technology and social impact of lifts, and meets a former lift-phobic and a lift-surfer. All you ever wanted to know about lifts (7370). * 8,00 Gimme Health: Pulse Special Shahnaz Pakravan

investigates whether the lottery that is breast cancer care still exists (S) (3318). 9.00 in Search of Law and Order (3554). 10.00 English City of Joy (Roland Joffe 1991 Fr/UK). Patrick Swavze and Pauline Collins slum it in

Calcutta as an American doctor seeking spiritual inspiration and an English nurse respectively (S) (176196). 12.30 ETER Love Mother (Janos Rozna 1987 Hun).

Satire on modern life as a busy family communicates by messages on a blackboard, in Hungarian with English subtitles (185622). To 2.25am.

ITV/Regions

Initial Autonome except: 12.30 pm. Dilemmes (6864)). 2.00 The Shape of Things (4573). 2.30 Kick Off (9008464)). 5.20 The Road Show (200464). 5.50 Gambi (622318). 11.45 Dilemmas (314776). 12.15 am The Powers That Be (16448). 12.45 am The Black Windows (177603). 2.40 am The Album Show (4665958). 3.40 am Hollywood Report (75333332). 4.05 am The Chart Show (5617061). 5.00-5.30 am Viceotastion (44264).

THIE TES/NORSHIPE
As London except: 12.25pm Tyre: Newsweek (279084-1), forte: The Real Ghostbusies (2709552), 2.00 Highway to Heaven (3970318); 2.55 Fight 633 Supulsion (72:08659), 4.35 Thurder in Paradise (9244-105), 5.30 Tyre: The Farmous Five (399), 11.45 Quiz (1984-105), 1.20 Tyre: The Farmous Five (399), 11.45 Quiz (1984-105), 1.20 Tyre: The Farmous Five (399), 1.25 Paradish (1984-105), 1.25 Paradish

CBITINI.

As London except: 2.00pm it's Your Shout (4573). 2.30
The Central Match (431660). 5.00 Magnum (9576711).

5.55 Bulleaye (621689). 11.45 Fast Cut (750660).
12.05am Film: MicCabe and Mrs Milter (44617500).
2.20am Hollywood Report (4660413). 2.55am Cue the Music (4000142). 3.50am Joblinder (4143413). 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (4297535).

HTV
As London except: 12.25pm West: Ballot Box (2790844).
Wales: Heart and Soul (2790844). 2.00 West: The Utimate Challenge (95573). Wales: Gardening Time (4573).
2.30 Wales: ITV Sond Classins (283). 3.00 West: West Match Plus (8757). Wales: Soccer Sunday (8757). 4.00
Film: Doctor in Lose (43720592). 5.55 West: The Farnous Film: (521669). Wales: Peried Pitch (521699). 11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (519347). 12.40am Film: Moving Vications (3474054). 2.05am Hollywood Report (4650473).
2.55am Cue the Music (4752448). 3.55am Film: Escape Rode (8808790). 5.15-5.30am Curts Calls (8950264).

MEXIDIAN

As London except: 12:30pm Seven Days (5083202): 2:00

The Village (4573): 2:30 The Meridian Match (263): 3:00

Lulworth Horse Trials (3080): 3:30 Cat Czzy (888): 4:00

Films Swood of the Variant (43720582): 5:55 The Per (697009): 6:20 The Listings (856554): 11:45 The Pier (771028): 12:10am Serve You Right (5100974): 12:45am Films The Black Windmill (177603): 2:40am The Album Serve (6560091): 2:60m Hollburge Beacet The Album Show (4665968), 3.40am Hollywood Report (75333332), 4.05mm The Chart Show (5617061), 5.00-5.30am Videolashion (44264).

Westpolikrit?

As London europh. 2.00pm Westpountry Weekend Match
(4573). 2.30 World of Wonder (652/757). 3.10 Filtre
A Carbinson Myslery (639/15486). 5.00 The Stage of Things
(5825). 5.30 Highrash to Heaven (524009). 11.45 Prisoner. Cell Block H (619347). 12.40 Bar Filtre, Moving Viclations (347055). 2.20 Bar Hollywood Report (4660473).
2.55 am Che the Music (4752448). 5.55 am Filtre. Brabpe
Route (8808790). 5.15-5.30 am Curtis Calls (8990264).

540.
As C4 except 8.30am Alex Mack (3964.). 9.00 Film:
The Guinea Pig (90915738), 10.45 New Garnesmaster (771912). 11.15 The Avenges (745757). 1.15 Rownd a Rownd (317282). 1.45 Icon) Impro (893347), 2.45 Ienyloors (9275399), 3.05 My So-Called Life (8236370), 4.00 Pobol Y Churi (43728), 5.55 Chipan Y Byd (63565853), 7.45 Penbhaydd (Hapus (616115), 8.30 William Jones (22080), 9.30 Saith Ar Y Sul (954641), 9.50 Marel F R Ior (877028), 10.15 Ar Derlyn Dydd (828047), 10.25 Laiet's Progress (429009), 12.00-2.05am Fibre Sunday Bloody Sunday (46790429).

Radio

Radio 1

10.00 Simon Mayo's Classic Years 12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00 Soul on Sunday 4.00 UK Top 40 7.00 Doing the Business 8.00 Radio 1 Rock Show 10.00 Andy Kershaw 12.00 Mark Tonderal 4.00-6.30am Dave Pearce

Radio 2 088-99 2WE PMD

7.00am Don Maclean 9.05 Bob 7.00am Don Maclean 9.05 too
Hothess 10.30 Hayes on Sunday
12.00 Desmond Carrington 2.00
Benny Green 3.00 David Jacobs
4.00 A Royle four 4.30 Sing
Something Simple 5.00 Charlie
Chester 7.00 BBC Radio 2 Chologid
of the Year 8.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 Vigil for Bosnia 10.00 Round the World in 60 Minutes 11.00 n 3,00-6,00am Alex Lester

Radio 3 630 2-92 4Mits FMD 6,55am Weather. 7.00 Sacred and Profane. 8,55 Choice of Three. 9,00 Brian Kay's Sunday Moming.

Including Gershwin: Overture: Strike Up the Band; Artist of the Week, Anne Queffélec (plano): Puccini: Un bel di vedremo. Satie: Gymnopédies. 12.15 Music Matters. Patricia Howard talks about her book on

the operatic reformer Gluck.

1.00 News; Fakest Isle Songbook.

1.15 Fakest Isle.

1.45 The BBC Orchestras. BBC
Philharmonic US Tour/Yan Pascal
Torteler and Peter Mexwell Davies, Tchalkovsky: Fantasy Overture: Romeo and Juliet. Maxwell Davies: The Beltane fire, Debussy: La Mer. 3.20 Spirit of the Age. Christopher

Page evokes the medieval land-scape of the late of Ely. 4.20 Britten Plus. 5.45 Sunday Feature: Great English Contributions. Sir Roy Strong and Joe Mordaunt Crook examme the English landscape gar-

6.30 Key Chamber Choir, Tavener: Sviati.
7,30 Choral Foundations. St Paul's.

Adrian Jack explores When's great totalding the Rev John Haliburton.

9.00 Drama Nows God's Locusts.

Terry Eagleton's new black correctly looks at the Irish famine from the perspective of Whitehalf. 10.30 John Field. 11,15-12,30am Record Review. 5.55-6.00am Weather.

Choice

God's Locusts (9pm R3) is a loopy drama about Ireland's Great Hunger — a blithely anachmonistic swipe at English attitudes to reland, as heard in the conversation of young Whitehall functionaries, who hide starvation under the acronym TAD — Terminal Alimentary Delicit. It veers between the incisive and the barking; but Roger Lloyd Pack (left) is on good form as a Bible-fluimping mandaria who sees famine as a visitation from the Lord.

12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: The Woman Radio 4 82 494 BMv Pk 198kb Uh 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Something Understood. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. in the Glass Booth. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. Radio 5 7.10 Sunday Papers. 7.15 On Your Farm.

Richard Hoggart.

12.55 Weather.

1.00 The World This Weekend.

1.55 Shipping Forecast.

2.00 Gardeners' Question Time.

2.30 Classic Serial: Uncle Silas.

6.30 in Business. 7.00 Children's BBC Radio 4: The

Voyage of the Dawn Treader.

7.30 Always and Always. The cor-respondence exchanged by Hugo Williams and Mangaret Vyner. 8.00 (LW) Suencs - World Spanish.

8.45 The French Experience. 9.15 Short Stories in German.

9.30 Get By in Portugal. 8.00 (FM) Natural History Pro-

gramme. 8.30 (FMB Random Edition.

Pythagoras. 10.00 News. 10.15 All in the Mind.

10.45 A Week in the Ufa. 11.15 The Words to Say It.

9.00 (FM) Touched by Trees.

9.30 (FM) The Square on the

3.30 Pick of the Week. 4.15 Analysis. 5.00 News; Villa Park Incident.

5.30 Poetry Pleasel
5.50 Shipping Forecast.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

5.55 Weather.

6.15 Feedback.

(63) 989kh km 6.05am Straight Up 6.30 The Brealdest Programme 9.05 Sunday with Mair 11.35 Special Assignmen 12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 The 7.40 Sunday. 8.50 The Week's Good Cause. 8.55 Weather. 9.00 News. Big Byts 1.05 Hold the Front Page 1.35 You Cannot Be Serious! 2.30 9.10 Sunday Papers. 9.15 Letter from America. 9.30 Moming Service. Gary Lineker's Sunday Sport 6.05 Jim and the Doc 7.00 News Extra-7.35 The Acid Test 8.05 Who Runs 7.35 The Acti less coop with rains Sport? 8.35 Word Up! 9.05 Dailyn Worldwide 10.05 Namy Knows Best 10.35 Crime Desk 11.00 Night Ex-tra 12.05 Nightcall 2.05 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports 11.45 Books and Company. John Watsh, Literary Editor of the independent looks at the Implica-tions of the rights revolution. 12.15 Desert Island Discs. With

Classic FM

(100.0-101.9Mbb FM) 6.00am Sarah Luces 9.00 Classic Romance 12.00 Celebrity Choice 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Masterclass. Beethoven 4.00 Robert Booth 7.00 Book Browse 8.00 Classic FM Evening Concert. Raff: String Octat in C. Ross Edwards: Octet; Veni Creator Spiritus. Mendelssohn: String Octet in E flat, Op 20, 10,00 Howard's Week 12,00 André Leon

Paul Coyte 2.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Howard Pearce 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks **World Service**

Yirgin Radio

(1215, 1197-1260kit; Mir 105 Abilit; Pio

6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00

(1884b 196 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Local Heroes 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 News 2.10 Press Review 2.15 Western Philosophers in a Nutshell 2.30 Anything Goes 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Composer of the Month 4.00 News 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Jazz for the Asking 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30 Off the Shelf 5.30 Europe Today 5.45 tem Philosophers in a Nutshell

Satellite

capes (4115), 5.30 Power Rangers (4221), 6.00 The Samp-

sons (1134). 6.30 The Simpsons (2486). 7.00 Beverly Hills 90210 (75979). 8.00 Star Trek (55115). 10.00 Renegate (67950). 11.00 LA Law (68202). 12.00 Entertainment Tonight (3714326). 12.50 Top of the Heap (1827210). 1.20 Comic Strip Live (1863332). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (3203351).

SIXY MOVIES 6.00am Showcase (70844). 8.00 The Helicopter Sples (1967) (21283). 10.00 Prelude to a Kiss (1992) (20405). 12.00 Butch and Sundance: The Early Days (1979) (44134). 2.00 How the West Was Fun (1993) (58202). 4.00 Manhattan Murder Mystery (1993) (8554). 6.00 Prelude to a Kiss (1992) (45738), 8.00 Where the Rivers Flow North (1993) (40283), 10.00 Nowhere to Run (1993) (582414), 11.35. The Movie Show (260860), 12.05 High Lonesome (19945) (352852). 1.40 Convoy (1978) (863784). 3.30-6.00am Dying to Remember (1993) (895993).

MOVIE CHAIDEL 6.00am Perils of Problemina (1985) (78737738). 7.35 Prancer (1989) (85237047). 9.20 Lost in Alaska (1952) (4996009). 10.40 Back to God's Country (1953) (5104844) 12.00 Grounding Day (1993) (42776). 2.00 Where Are My Children? (1994) (56844). 4.00 Huck and the King of Hearts (1993) (6296), 6.00 Official Denial (1993) (36080), 8.00 Groundhog Day (1993) (48825). 10.00 Short Cuts (1993) (88683844), 1.15 The Cemete Club (1993) (140210), 3.05-6.00am Meet Me in Las Vegas (1956) (85947871).

SILVE SERVING SECULO 12.00pm Strocco (1951) (15221). 2.00 Room Service (1938) (9594318). 3.20 Patton (1970) (79078115). 6.10 Buona Sera, Mrs Campbell (1968) (59097738). 8.00 The Breakfast Club (1985) (39115). 10.00 (992405). 11.40 Les Diaboliques (1954) (833573). 1.40-3.30am The Main Event (1979) (936239).

7.00am Lassie (6471757). 7.25 Going for Gold (6483592). 7.50 Spring and Autumn (5860028). 8.15 And Mother Makes Three (4061641), 8.45 When the Boat Comes in (5740842), 9.40 Bless This House (6523270), 10.10 Dr Tris House (6523270). 10.10 Dr Who (50055950). 12.00 The Dawson Wetch (7117115). 12.30 It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (770760). 1.00 Perry Mason (17069641). 2.40 Pin Panther (8317979). 2.50 The Bill (96030863). 5.10 Bergerac (25876825). 6.20 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (9946660). 7.00 Paul Daniels (1248950). 8.00 Paul Daniels (1248950), 8.00 Howards' Way (1224370). 9.00 Quatermass (91528202). 10.10 Quatermass (85950221), 11.15 Film: Twins of Evil (7548009), 12.50 Warship (7334500), 1.50-7.00am Shopping (59345332).

SISY SPORTS 7.00am Watersports World (90009). 8.00 World of Speed and Beauty (18757). 8.30 World Superbles (24738). 10.30 Pole Position (93689). 11.30 Max Out (65028). 12.00 Goals on Sunday (38134). 1.30 Hold the Back (38134), 1.30 Mold the Back Page (98134), 2.30 World Soccer (4863), 3.00 Sheffield Wednes-day v Middlesbrough (5471399), 7.00 World Superbiles (68249), 9.00 Goals on Sunday (227689), 12.00 Finish Line (58245), 12.30-2.30am Goff (45784),

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00am Soccer Extra (8312270). 11.00 Powerboat World (4990912). 11.30 Rugby Union (3529825), 1.30 Golf (7662950), 3.30 Beach Volleybell (9645318), 4,00 Opposit Lock (1495467), 6,00 NFL -Live (6943950). 9.00 Anderson Consulting World Championship Rnal (2103979). 10.00-12.00midnight World Pool Championships (4901028).

8.30am Sumo (62738), 10.00 Temis (48495), 12.00 Live Mo-torcycling (73660), 2.00 Boxing (61825), 3.00 Live Golf (68047), 5.00 Live Cycling (3405), 5.30 Judo (50825), 7.00 Touring Car (99573), 8.00 Touring Car (76561), 9.00 Sumo (78080), 11.00 Karate (99196), 12.00 1 30am Motorcycling (10887) 1.30am Motorcycling (10887).

Pastimes

Chess William Hartston

lost the 12th game of his match with Garry Kasparov in 25 moves, it was the shortest loss with White in a world championship since 1892.

Here, to compare, is how Wilhelm Steinitz managed to lose one move more quickly than Anand. The opening was an unfortunate Steinitzian experiment that he insisted on testing to destruction. He repeated his idea of 8.Bf1 and 9.Nh3 in game ten, improving with 10.Qe2 (instead of 10.d3) to lose in 30 moves. In game 12, he improved again with 8.Be2 h6 9.Nh3 Bc5 10.0-0 and lost in 26 moves. Then he won games 14 and 16 with the Ruy Lopez and 18, 20 and 22 with 1.Nf3. A true champion knows when to stop struggling for originality.

Steinitz had seen the force of 13 gxh3 0-0-0

When Viswanathan Anand 20...Rxd3! (when 21.Qxd3 Qe1+ forces mate), he would have tried 19.0f2 Nc2+ 20.Ke2 Qxf2+ 21.Kxf2 Nxb3 22.Rd1, hoping that the knight on c2 will remain trapped. Steinitz's whole idea was fi-

nally vindicated in 1963 when Bobby Fischer beat Arthur Bisguier with 8.Be2 h6 9.Nh3 Bc5 10.0-0 0-0 11.d3! improving on Steinitz's 11.c3. White: Wilhelm Steinitz Black: Mikhail Chigorin

Eighth match game, 1892. 14 Nd2 Nd5 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 15 Nb3 Bb4+ 3 Bc4 Nf6 16 Bd2 Ne3 4 Ng5 d5 17 Bxb4 Oxb4+ 5 exd5 Na5 18 c3 Oh4+ 6 Bb5+ c6 19 Kd2 Nac4+ 7 dxc6 bxc6 20 Kc1 Rxd3 8 Bf1 h6 21 Bg2 Rhd8 9 Nh3 Bc5 22 a4 Rd1+ 23 Radi Radi+ 10 d3 Qb6 In the current game, White 11 Qe2 Bg4 24 Qxd1 Nxd1 was lost after 19.Kd2. If 12 f3 Bxh3 White resigns White resigns

Perplexity Confusion:

Unfortunately the answer is the two an anagram sentences of oil of this tall week's heroic puzzle have become

MP intermeshed.

And that's all we're going to tell you. This is, after all, meant to perplex. Good luck in unraveiling it. A copy of the splendid Chambers Encyclopaedic Dictionary will be awarded to the sender of the first correct answer opened on 26 October, Entries should be sent to: Saturday Pastimes, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

30 September competition: Answers: Sagittarius (guitarist as); archery (hear cry): Ambridge (game bird). The connection, of course, is Archers. Winner: Gareth Wilkins (Birmingham).

Bridge Alan Hiron

North **♦**K 1042 ♥A K 763 **◊**AK **♣**J3 West East **4QJ95 ф** поде ♥J 10984 ♥none OQ109763 OJ42 **4**87642 **∳**AK5

South **◆**A8763 ♥Q52 085 **+**Q109

Declarer, not unnaturally, felt aggrieved when he found bad breaks in two suits on this deal. Perhaps he thought that though he could cater for West making Four Spades would holding them.

East-West game; dealer West be altogether too easy but he completely overlooked a neat way of improving his chances. West opened One Club. North doubled, East passed.

South, with fair values, jumped to Two Spades and North went on to game. West started with the ace of clubs against Four Spades and continued with the king and another. After discarding a heart from dummy, declarer won in hand.

The only conceivable problem, South decided, lay in finding the missing trumps breaking 4-0. There was nothing to be done if they were all with East, but it looked as

At trick four, the ace of spades revealed the bad news. On the next trump lead, West split his honours and, after dummy had ducked, exited with a diamond. All over now, thought South, and he tried to come to hand with the queen of hearts to pick up the remaining trumps. Disaster! West ruffed and that was the fourth defensive trick.

However, there was a rather pleasing safety play available. Before starting on trumps, de-clarer should have played off the ace and king of diamonds. The play goes as before but, when West is left on lead with his trump, he no longer has a safe diamond exit.





- The second second second second second



The big picture A Matter of Life and Death Sat 8pm C4

The Michael Powell/Emeric Pressburger film, A Matter of Life and Death, about a British airman (David Niven, above) pleading for his life in a heavenly court against a ferociously anti-British prosecutor (Raymond Massey), copped flak at the time for its supposed pro-American stance. The Daily Graphic called it "a picture which might have been made specifically to appeal to isolationist and anti-British sentiments in the United States". Nowadays, the film is appreciated for what it is: a wonderfully imaginative fantasy.

Preview

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND by Gerard Gilbert



Performance: The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd Sat 8.55pm BBCZ Timewatch Sun 7:30pm BBC2 Cinema Europe Sun 9pm BBC2 In Search of Happiness Sun 10.10pm BBC1 The South Bank Show Sun 10.45pm ITV

ould you like to be happy? A samid ques-tion — and only the stupid would join Angus Deayton in Search of Happiness (Sun BBC1) with any genuine hope of achieving nirvana. For most, it'll be a jolly way of blocking out the fact that it is Sunday evening - perhaps, in its own way, a definition of happiness.

How, though, do you tell whether Angus Deay-ton is happy, when his stock expression is Monday afternoon in the dentist's waiting room? In Search of Happiness seems mostly, in fact, to be about creating a vehicle to take Deayton into the sunny uplands grazed by the likes of Clive James and Clive Anderson. Perhaps, as advised in the programme, changing his name might be a route to happiness. With a touch more hair loss, Clive Deayton could yet have his own epigramstudded travel programme.

If Angus/Clive weren't just a visitor in this happiness business, he would now be walking around

If the search for happiness seems unrealistically ambitious, then you can always join The: South Bank Show (Sun ITV) in its search for Jimmy Nail, a man normally given to less public self-revelation than OJ Simpson. We learn that Nail has been teetotal for eight years, spent a stretch inside Strangeways for GBH, and wrote an anti-Vietnam poem at the age of 13.

Gravesend, I can assure you (it appears on my birth certificate), is not a town usually singled out. by tourists - but it's apparently now being overrun by Americans in search of Pocahontas's grave. The reason, of course, is Disney's latest blockbuster, but if they were to see Timewatch (Sun BBC2), these tourists would learn that no one knows where the lass is buried. They would also learn that Pocationtas looked more like Frieda with a hole in his skull. The only people we meet Kahlo than Disney's ethnic Snow White, and that

who look anything like "bappy" are a couple who cach drilled holes in their head - trepanation, as in Jamestown, Virginia, and meant "frisky". She it's known to the cognoscenti. account. But then, the speaker was a Puritan.

If you can't wait for Pride and Prejudice, you

can catch Colin Firth quivering with repressed emotion beneath a bushy moustache (rather than bushy sideburns) in Performance. The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd (Sat BBC2). DH Lawrence's early play. Firth plays Mr Holroyd, a miner who goes straight t'pub from t'pit before returning home to smack around t'missus (Zoe Wanamaker). Stephen Dillane is the sensitive electrician who wants to take her to a new life in Spain-

Cinema Europe (Sun BBC2) reaches Germany, illustrating the oft-made point that silent cinema was reaching sublime heights when killed off by sound. German cinema became sublimer than most because it got wired for sound two years after everyone else. Jolson's "Mannni" for Murnau's Faust? A pact with the devil indeed.



The big match Golf: World Matchplay Championship Sat 12.50pm, Sun 10.30am BBC1

There are few sporting events more thatling than top-class matchplay golf: witness the almost unbearable tension of fast month's Ryder Cup at Oak HIL. The fest inejer metistiplay event since then — the World Matchiplay Championship — cardinues this weekend. Engle Es (above) is the defending champion. Expect to see Bernard Gallaction the Wentworth pro and Ryder Cup capitals, repeating his Cale till act of watering from the sidelines—although he may not be quite so nervous this time.

BBC₁

7.25 News: Weather (5112086). 7.30 SuperTed (R) (6377527). 7.35 Willy Fog (R) (S) (9283153).

8.00 The Addams Family (R) (35-143). 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (4692559). *

9.15 Live and Kicking. England rugby star and Diana's friend Will Carling, and Clare Buckfield and John Pickard, the children from 2point4 Children, are the guests (S) (60490004).

12.15 Grandstand. Introduced by Steve Rider from Wentworth. 12.20 Football Focus. 12.50 Golf: World Matchplay Championship. Action from today's semi-finals. See The Big Match, above I.00 News; Weather. 1.05 Rugby League. World Cup round-up and a look ahead at today's match between Australia and Fiji. 1.25 Golf. Further World Matchplay action from Wentworth. 4.40

Final Score. 5.15 News; Weather (9742337). *

5.25 Local News, Weather (6348066). 5.30 Carloon (505288). 5.40 Enter Three Arnigos! (John Landis 1986 US). Silent screen stars Chevy Chase, Steve Martin and Martin Short - heroic on celluloid, cowardly in the flesh - are invited to a Mexican village where they find themselves in the midst of a real blood feud. Top cast, surefire director -what could have gone wrong? But go wrong this

comedy surely did. Sloppy stuff (21153153). *
7.20 Big Break. Last in series (S) (901725). *
7.50 The National Lottery Live. Dame Edna bandles double entendres as another millionaire is created (S) (759199). 8.05 Casualty. A care-in-the-community residential

home and a violent bigot make bad neighbours (S) (585917). *

8.55 News and Sport; Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (342627). * 9.15 STEW With Savage Intent (Michael Tuchner 1992 US). An estate agent is shot and left for dead - not for the usual reasons (you know, describing a cupboard as a spacious studio flat; dressing from a Next catalogue circa 1988), but because she discovers a drugs deal going down in one of her properties. Stars Elizabeth Montgomery, twinkle-nosed Samantha from Bewitched (S) (856733). *

10.45 Match of the Day, Manchester United vs Manchester City and QPR vs Newcastle. Plus rugby league highlights from England's World

Cup game against South Africa (8921714). 11.55 They Think It's All Over (183612). * 12.25 Goff: World Matchplay Championship Highlights

(S) (5127641). 1.05 IN A Town Called Hell (Robert Parrish 1971 UK/Sp). British spaghetti western shot in Spain, set in Mexico, and featuring Telly Savalas, Robert Shaw, Stella Stevens, much brooding, gnashing of teeth and slow-mo violence (676641). 2.40 Weather (4493979). To 2.45am.

BBC₂

8.20 Open University: Developing World: The Poverty Complex. 8.45 A Matter of Resource. 9.35 Surviving the Exam.

10.00 Chanakya. Hindu epic (S) (8572337). 10.40 Video Byte, Asian pop (S) (2154559). 10.50 Network East (S) (6981269). 11.50 The 1995 World Chess Championship Last visit

to the Garry Kasparov/Vishy Anand clash (S) (5928462). 12.20 Clash of the Carnivores. Tasmanian meat-eaters

12.50 Close Up. Mary Whitehouse chooses a Harold Lloyd comedy (73067153).
1.00 EMB Saturday Matineé: Whistle Down the Wind (Bryan Forbes 1961 UK). Farmer's

daughter Hayley Mills finds Jesus in her dad's barn (78161627). 2.35 ISBN Saturday Matinée: A High Wind in Jamaica (Alexander Mackendrick 1965 US). Fine, good-looking and underrated yarn – black-er and deeper than its surface appearance as a children's adventure - with pirates Anthony Quinn and James Coburn kidnapping three English children on their way back to England from the West Indies (72324627).

4.15 Best of Esther. A contradiction in terms, surely (R) (S) (662801).

4.45 The Oprah Winfrey Show, Children's relationships with the opposite sex (S) (3567627). *

5.25 TOTP2 (S) (3228085). 6.10 Pride and Prejudice. 3/6. Another chance to see last Sunday's episode of this excellent Jane Austen adaptation, as Colin Firth's Darcy delivers his proposal to Elizabeth (\$) (481917). *

7.05 News and Sport; Weather (332795). * 7.20 The Boss. A video self-portrait of Sue Riley in her first year as a junior sister of an orthopaedic ward in Newham General Hospital in the East End of London (845511). *

8.10 Assignment. Julian Pettifer reports on the rise of a cult sect, Soka Gakkai, which has major centres in Japan, the US and the UK. Its leader, Daisaku Ikeda, has assets worth billions, and millions of followers (S) (836153). *

8.55 Performance: The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd. D H Lawrence's early play exploring life in a mining community in 1914. See Preview, above (S) (4578646). *

10.25 Blind Ambition. 3/4. Martin Sheen continues his portraval of John Dean in Dean's continuing

account of the Watergate story. Dean decides it is time to tell the truth (R) (3272269). * 11.55 Wise Blood (John Huston 1979 US/W Ger). Southern Gothic red in tooth and claw as Huston pulled the stops out for his adaptation of Flannery O'Connor's book about an ex-army man (Brad Dourif) who returns to his bible-belt hometown to stage a dramatic rebellion against Jesus and all his works. Bizame, funny and tragic. With Army Wright, Harry Dean Starton and Ned Beatty (836952). * To 1.45am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News; Weather. 6.10 Re:Win.d. 6.40 Eat Your Words. 7.10 Barney and Friends. 7.45-8.55 Saturday Disney. 8.55 Mighty

Morphin Power Rangers (7141375).

9.25 Scratchy & Co. Including at 9.27 Donald Duck.

9.35 Animaniacs. 10.05 The Adventures of Batman and Robin. 10.30 Gladiators - Train to Win. 11.00 Massive. Featuring Irene Bedard, the voice of Pocahontas in the latest Disney

blockbuster (S) (22157998).

11.30 The Chart Show (R) (S) (81240).

12.30 Du'aine's World. Guests include the very former EastEnder, John Altman, and singer Dee C Lee

1.00 News, Weather (64049004). *
1.05 Local News, Weather (64048375). *
1.10 Champions League Special. Preview of next week's games featuring Blackburn and Rangers (22660153).

1.40 Movies, Games and Videos (3147397). 2.15 The A-Team (R) (661207). 3.15 Airwolf (R) (650191).

4.15 Speakeasy Does the Business. New series looking at the reality behind "dream jobs" begins with Brookside actress Alexandra Fletcher

4.45 News; Sport; Weather (5976511). *
5.05 London Tonight and Sport (5524248). *
5.20 New Baywatch. A bush fire traps some blind schoolkids (S) (1871743). * 6.15 Gladiators (S) (613795). *

7.15 Blind Date. Pippa and Terry report back from Worthing (Including Lottery Result) (S) (642207). *

8.15 Raise the Roof. A listed thatched cottage in Buckinghamshire on offer (S) (941820). *
8.45 News; National Lottery Update; Weather (357559). *

9.00 Strike Force. Soldier, Soldier meets Top Gun in new drama try-out, as a group of Tomado fighter flyers compete to join a crack new strike force providing Nato with rapid response in world troublespots. Stuart Lang, Derek Riddell, Fiona Dolman and Mick Ford reach for the skies (S) (3646). *

10.30 Conan the Destroyer (Richard Fleischer 1984 US). Conari the Barbarian sequel offers little new except Grace Jones. Amie

Scwarzenegger once again pumps it up in the title role (88631153). 12.20 Tropical Heat. Nick poses as a hairdresser whilst

investigating the matia (R) (S) (2959825).

1.15 American Gladiators (S) (5090009).

2.05 The Big E (S) (1498979).

2.55 BPM (S) (4106370). 3.50 Best of British Motorsport. Car-racing highlights

for insomniacs (80967931). 4.15 EIEM Men of Sherwood Forest (Val Guest 1954 UK). Hammer goes to Sherwood with Don Taylor in the Lincoln green, attempting to bring good King Richard back to England (9471283). 5.30 News (77573). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (23882), * 7.00 Ovide (R) (2485849).

7.10 Adventures of Sonic the Hedgehog. Sonic warps back in time to the age of the pharaons, to stop Robotnik wiping out his ancestors and getting hold of the Emerald of Immortality (R)

(9164714). 7.35 First Edition. News and current affairs for Channel 4 Schools (9209191).

8.00 Trans World Sport (74269). 9.00 The Morning Line. Marks your race card (S) 10.00 Blitz! American football (S) (20646).

11.00 Gazzetta Football Italia. A visit to the Italian national side's training camp as they prepare to meet Croatia (68022). 12.00 Sign On: Deaf World. An explanation of Usher

Syndrome, a degenerative eye condition (S) (21240). 12.30 The Great Maratha (9859608). 12.55 The Late Late Show (S) (1120266). *

1.55 Channel Four Racing from Newmarket. Brough Scott introduces; 2.20 Houghton Stakes; 3.00 Tote Cesarewitch; 3.35 Olivier Douieb Memorial Stakes (H'cap); 4.15 Dubai Champion Stakes; 4.45 Bedford Lodge Hotel Bentinck Stakes (S)

(55817397).
5.05 Brookside Omnibus (R) (S) (3173337). *
6.30 Right to Repty. Why was it deemed necessary to subtitle a couple of Geordies in Battered Britain? (S) (443).

7.00 The People's Parliament. Debate on the sex industry – should we decriminalise or wholly legalize the business of prostitution? (S) (3511). 8.00 EMIA Matter of Life and Death (Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger 1946 UK). Downed RAF pilot David Niven lies suspended between a Technicolor earth and a black-and-white heaven. See The Big Picture, above (3375). 10.00 Rory Bremner - Who Else? (S) (138397).

10.35 Sean's Show. Light surrealism from sleepy-eyed comedian Sean Hughes (R) (S) (673608).

11.10 Tribe Time: Cheerleaders. The first of tonight's tribes are members of the Scottish Claymores Cheerleaders who come together each week to upport their American football team (787530). 11.25 China Doll. Behind-the-scenes look at the beauty

contests in Britain's Chinese community (S) (782085). 11.40 Girtz 'n' the Hood. Focusing on two gangs, a

gimpse of the lives of female gang members in Los Angeles (372627).

12.40 A Band Called Treacle. On the road with Sheffield all-girl band Treacle (S) (7678414).

1.10 She Lives to Ride. Women motorbikers

(1719931).

2.10 Teen Dreams. Video diaries of three American teenagers (R) (3785202).

3.35 Bingo, Bridestraids and Braces. Australian filmmaker Gillian Armstrong's film of the lives of three working-class women from Adelaide, made over a 12-year period (R) (450467). To 5.20am.

ITV/Regions

AllSLIA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (72462). 1.40 The Big Byte (47852578). 2.05 Film: Return from the River Kwal (289462). 3.45 Airwolf (659462). 5.05 Angila News, Sport and Weather (5524248). 12.20am Film: Brian's Song (6430950). 1.40am Rock Sport (9232486). 1.55am American Gladistrs (4365776). 2.50am The Big E (6415757). 3.40am BPM (3706776). 4.35am America's Top Ten (24979641). 5.00 4.35am America's Top Ten (24979641). 5.00-5.30am Movies, Games and Videos (32047).

The TES/TORISBRE
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (72462). 1.40 Cartoon Time (91667714). 1.50 Films Mission Top Secret (38128337). 3.45 Knight Rider (659462). 5.10 Tyne: Full Time (9761462). Yorks: Scoreline (9761462). 12.20am The War of the Worlds (2968573). 1.10am Bodies of Evidence (3250196). 2.05am Coach (1305955). 2.35am BPM (4762825). 3.35am The Little Picture Show (3781467). 4.30am Cue the Music (7084134). 5.25-5.30am Night Shift (5040399).

As London except: 12.30pm Heartland (72462). 1.40 Cartoon Time (91676462). 1.45 Movies, Games and Videos (695004). 2.15 WCW World-Garmes and Yobers (195004). 2.15 WVW World-wide Wassling (1029511) 2.55 Airwolf (9541337). 3.50 Thunder in Paradise (9740462). 5.10 Cen-tral Match—Goals Extra (9761462). 12.20am World Championship Boxing with Goals Extra (2959825). 4.15am .lobfinder (8444318). 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (4220863).

As London except: 12.30pm West: No Naked Flames (72462). Wales: The Mursters Today (72462). 2.10 Father Dowling Investigates (2197849). 3.00 Thunder in Paradise (8288733). 3.50 Knight Rider (9740462). 5.15-5.20pm Cartoon Time (6377578).

McRibide

As London except: 12.30pm Summer of Sailing (72462). 2.10 The Big Byte (10987838). 2.40 Warner Cartoon (8517707). 2.50 Airwolf (9542066). 3.45 Knight Rider (659462). 12.20am Film: Brian's Song (5430950). 1.40am Rock Sport (9232486). 1.55am American Gladiators (4365776). 2.50am The Big E (6415757). 3.40am BPM (3706776). 4.35am America's Top Ien (24979641). 5.00-5.30am Freescreen (32047).

Nes London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (72462). 1.40 The Munsters Today (47835801). 2.10 Film: Toby Tyter (286375). 3.50-4.45pm Time Trax (9740462).

As C4 except: 6.00am Ovide (3617714). 8.00 Tarsworld Sport (74269), 11.00 The Persuaders! (68022), 12.00 Sign on – Deaf World (21240), 12.30pm Exosquad (9859608), 6.30 The Vision Thing (443), 7.00 News (351820), 7.15 Noson Lawen (640849), 8.15 Pengelli (949462), 8.45 Yr Ochr Arall F R Cwm (991085), 9.45 The Long Johns (875646), 11.10 Cheerleader (787530), 11.40-12.40am Girlz 'N' the Hood (372627),

Radio

Radio 1

197 6-99 SMRC: FMD 7.00am Clive Warren 10.00 Darrity Baker 12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00 Johnnie Walker 5.00 John Peel 7.00 Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Essential Tour Live in Liverpool 2.00 Chill Out Zone 4,00-7,00am Lynn Parsons

Radio 2

198-90 2MHz FM 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10,00 Judi Spiers 12,00 Hayes on Saturday 1.30 The News Huddines 2.00 Martin Keiner 4.00 Nick Barraclough 5.00 Jethro Tull 6.00 Oh Yes, I'm the Great Pretendor. See Charce 7.00 Cornects Classics 7.30 Les Miserables 10.00 Shendan Morley 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-7.00am Mo Dulta

Radio 3

(90.2-92-409): pg 7.00am Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library. Bruce Wood compares recordings of Monteverdi's opera Orleo. Plus Stephen Johnson on new recluding string quartets by Beethoven and Milhaud

10.15 Record Release. Arriaga: String Quartet No 1 in D minor. Philipp Scharwenka: Sonata in G minor. Hindemith: String Quartet No 6. 11.15 Reissues. Edward Secker-

featuring the late Hungarian conductor Ferenc Fricsay in works by Johann Strauss, Verdi. Bartok and Stravinsky and theatre director David Pountney guides Michael

Berkeley through his tavounte

usical moments. 1.00 News: The Indian Spice Trail. Leslie Forbes considers the history of Hyderabad. (3/8). 1.25 Vintage Years. Roger dancer Ida Rubinstein during the pened after the First World War. Schmitt: Suite No 1: Antony and Cleopatra. Hones ger: Incidental music to Phè-dre, Roger-Ducasse: Orphée. Ravel: Boléro, Stravinsky: The

Fairy's Kiss. (2/4). 3.25 EBU Young Performers 1995. Highlights from the Eu-ropean Broadcasting Union's foung Performers Day. (1/2). 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 5,45 Music Matters. Ivan Hewett talks to Patricia Howard about her new book on Gluck,

Choice

Great Preteader (6om R2), in which geographical identification only in Kaleidoscope Longings (7.20pm R4), in which Brian Patter checks out Timbagel's (left) legendary past and present.

6.30 Fierrabras. Schubert's heroic romantic opera, recorded at the Maggio Musicale in Flo-rence. With Stefan Margita (tenor), Christian Christiansen (bass), Chorus and Orchestra of the Magglo Musicale/Semy-on Bychkov. 9.30 Blue Skies. 10,00 John Field. Daniel Adni

10,00 John Fleid, Daniel Adni plays the complete cycle of noc-turnes by the composer. (1/2).
10,45 Impressions, Brian Morton reviews the best of the jazz CDs issued during the summer and reports on Ornette Cole-marks first major, label releases. man's first major label releases tor many years. Plus a report on some recently discovered cordings by saxophonist John

12.30-1.00am Sinatra's Jazz. Mel Hill traces the part played by jazz in the evolution of Spatra's chalo (144) natra's style. (1/4).

Radio 4 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather.

9.05 Sport on 4. 10.00 News; Loose Ends. 11.00 News; The Disunited Kingdom. David Dimbleby asks whether new plans on political devolution would strengthen the United Kingdom or lead to its destruction. (4/5). 11.30 From Our Own Correspon-

dent. 12.00 Money Box. 12.25 The News Quiz. 12.55 Weather. 1,00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby's guests are John Prescott MP, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Peter Riddell, Assistant Editor of The Times.

The need to identify with myth is investigated in two programmes tonight: a very intimate kind of identification in Ok Yes? I'm the Thatcher imitator Steve Mallon looks at the world of the impressionist and the lookalike;

and Diana Warwick, Chief Executive of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News; Any Answers?
2.30 Saturday Playhouse. Meeting Jack. A dramtisation by Shaun McKenna of the journey

undertaken in 1905 by author Jack London, who sailed round the South Pacific with his wife Charmian in search of adven-ture. With William Hope, Theresa Gallagher and Jonathan Keeble.
4.00 News; Random Edition. The computer sends Peter Snow and bit team back to 18 Deand his team back to 18 De

cember 1775 to peruse the stories featured in the Lloyd's Evening Post and British 4.30 Science Now. Peter Evans on reactions to the Science Day at the Cheltenham Festival 5.00 File on 4.

5.40 Quick Notes. (6/6). 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending. Another wry look back at the week's news. 6.50 Offspring. John Peel takes a look at family life. 7.20 Kaleidoscope Longings. Poet Brian Patten searches north

Comwall for the spirit of King Arthur. See Choice (1/3). 7.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Hangover Square. A dramatisation of Patrick Hamilton's novel set in pre-war Earl's Court. Social misfit and alcoholic George Harvey Bone pur-sues the cruel and beautiful bit-part actress Netta, with un toreseen and tragic conse-quences. With Nicholas Famell and Amanda Redman. 9.20 Music in Mind. 9.50 Ten to Ten. (1/4).

9.59 Weather.

10.15 The Heritage Quiz.

10.45 Famous for 15 Minutes.

10.00 News.

Jenni Mills talks to Noel Red-ding, the bassist who per-

formed with the Jimi Hendrix Experience in the Sixties. (4/5). 11.00 Comparing Notes with Richard Baker, Richard Baker talks to the plantst Eric Parkin. 11.30 Any Bloke. By Gary Brown, With Jim Sweeney and Caroline Quentin. (3/6). 12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Story: Chocolate

Lover by Lesley Glaister. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00am As World Service. Radio 5

893, 9056tz Mil

6.05am Dirty Tackle 6.30 The Breakfast Programme 9.05 Week end with Kershaw and Whittaker 11.05 Top Gear 11.35 Crime Desk 12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 Sportscall 1.05 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-O-Six 7.35 Straight Up 8.05 Clear the Air 8.35 Dallyn on Saturday 10.05 The Treat-ment 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

Classic FM (100.0-101.9MPz FMP

6,00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic Countdown 12.00 Classic Gardening Forum 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 The Saturday Alter tive 6.00 Classic America 7.00 World Opera Season. Handel: Alcina. Arleen Auger, Della Jones, Kathleen Kuhlmann. Opera Stan Charus, City of London Baroque Skrijonia/Richard Hickox. 10.00 Classic Quiz 12.00 André Leon 4.00 Classic Countdown 5.00-6.00am Michael Fanstone

Yirgin Radio (1215, 1197-1269k/b WWY 105.8WHz AND 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Russ & Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00 Richard Skinner 2.00 Mark Fornest 5.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

World Service (JANHA IAN

1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 The Learning World 1.45 Britain To-day 2.00 World News 2.10 Press Review 2.15 Powerful Substances 2.30 From Our Own Correspondent 2.50 Write On 3.00 News day 3.30 The Ed Stewart Show 4.00 World News 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Fourth Estate 4.45 Science View 4.50 Wave guide 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30 Short Story 5.45 Local Herces

Satellite

ZELY DIVE 7.00am Postcards from the Hedge (69559). 9.00 Ghoul-lashed (676882). 11.30 Shoot! (19443). 12.00 WWF (26207). 1.00 The Hit Mix (36907). 2.00 Wonder Woman (35004). 3.00 Growing Pairs (2191). 3.30 Three's Company (2443). 4.00 Kung Fu, the Legend Continues (71086), 5.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (3443), 6.00 WWF (15191), 7.00 Robocop (56462). 8.00 The Spirit of R101 (76998). 9.30 Cops (94608). 10.00 Dream On (55733), 11.00 The Movie Show . (21545), 11.30 Eddie Dodd (92608). 12.30 WKRP in Cincinettl (63509). 1.00 Saturday Night Live (53689). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play

SIX MOVES

6.00am Showcase (60085), 8.00 A Furnry Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1966) (26356), 10.00 The Land That Time Forgot (1975) (18288). 12.00 The Lemon Sisters (1990) (871207). 1.50 Shadowlan (1990) (871207). 1.50 Shadowlands (1993) (55791608). 4.00 The Man Who Wouldn't Die (1993) (8375). 6.00 Addams Family Values (1993) Cornedy starting Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia (65975240). 7.50 Shad-owlands (1993) Drama starting Antiho-ny Hopkins and Debra Winger. The story of the romance between English suthor (%) Lawis and American diauthor CS Lewis and American di-vorces Joy Gresham (24315207). 10.00 Where the Day Takes You 10.00 Where the Day Takes You (1992) Drama starring Dermot Mul-roney and Sean Astin (369004). 11.45 Mirror Images II (1993) Erotic drama starring Shannon Whirry and Luca Berconic (983/53), 1.20 Posse (1993) (873592). 3.10-6.00am TC 2000 (1983) (2873592). 3.10-6.00am TC 2000 (1993) (22360252).

MONTE CHONDIES. 6.00am Thumbelins (83288), 7.00 What Next? (1974) (11714), 8.00

Kidnapped (12443), 9.00 Against All Flags (1952) (83443), 10.30 Batman: Mask of the Phantasm (1993) (85578), 12,00 Majority Rule (1992) (47849), 2,00 This Carrt Be Love (1993) (44627), 4.00 David's Mother (1994) (6917), 6.00 Majority Rule (1992) Political drama starring Blair Brown and John Glover (\$7191), 8.00 Deep Red (1994) Thriller star-ring Michael Biehn and Joanna Pacula (36608), 10.00 Blindfold: Acts of Obsession (1993) Erotic thriller starring Shannen Doherty and Kristian Altonso (367646). 11.45 Irresistible Force (1993) Action charms starring Stacy (1993) Action crams starring statey Keach and Cynthia Rothrock (833998), 1.05 Web of Deception (1994) (115080), 2.45 Black Widow (1954) (877979), 4.25-6,00am What Next? (1974) (967592).

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200 BOMES GOLD 12.00cm Frankie and Johnny (1966) (87066). 2.00 Doctor Dolittle (1967) (88889375). 4,35 The Girl Most Likely (1957) (33764998). 6.15 Guns at Batasi (1964) African drama starring Richard Attenborough (95177153). 8.00 Wilness (1985) Thiller starring Harrison Ford and Kelly McGillis (34298). 10.00 Full Metal Jacket (1987) Victinam Wer drama starring Matthew Modine (87882). 12.00-3.15am Reds (1981) Drama starring Warren Beetty and Diane Keaton (94208573).

UK SOLD 7.00am Lassie (6404085). 7.25 The Pink Panther Show (3007849), 7.30 Going for Gold (9629801), 8.00 Warship (3716998). 9.00 Secret Army (2597882). 10.00 Neighbours (7723608). 12.00 Firm: Or Jekyli and Mr Hvde (60411608), 2.15 East-Endas (88751356). 5.00 Till Death Us Do Part (6003627). 5.35 Till Death Us Do Part (8520356). 6.10 French Fields (8551356), 6.40 It Ain't Half Hot, Murn (9440443), 7.10 Cowboys (3726269). 7,40 Bread (7919714). 8.15 The Bit (84030004). 9,20 Quatermess (35204882). 10,25 Quatermess (53690578). 11,30 Firm: 200 SPORTS

7.00am WWF (53714). 8.00 Golf (75646). 10.00 Boxing (34801). 12.00 Sports Saturday (1876801). 5.30 World Soccer (5998). 6.00 Sports Carther (5511). 6.30 Opposits Carther (5512). 6.30 Carther (5512). 6.30 Carther (5513). Lock (86733), 8.30 Sports Centre (8153). 9.00 Hold the Back Page (81172). 10.00 Bushido (91559). 11.00 Rusby Union Undate (53733). 1.00 Hold the Back Page (73028). 2.00-3.00am Bushido (93405). SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Soccer AM (6281518). 11.00 Mountain Bless (4923240). 11.30 Baskethall (1481172). 2.00 Rugby Union — Live (3829375). 4.30 Angling (9653337). 5.00 Watersports World (1448559), 6.00 Golf (2115714). 8.00 Golf (2127559). 10.00-12.00midnight World Pool Championships (4934356).

EUROSPORT 8.30am Salling (61801), 9.30 Chess (49733), 10.00 Tennis (7904443). 2.00 Boxing (64530), 3.00 Golf -Live (49530), 5.00 Judo - Live (55559). 6.30 Equestrianism (20153). 7.30 Touring Car (7153). 7.30 Touring Car (7153). 8.00 Pro-Wrestling (96004). 9.00 Sumo – Live (99191). 11.00 Boxing (18849). 12.00 Truck Racing (98641). 1.00-2.00am Motorsports Report (68196).

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